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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 165

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY AUGUST 19, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Camacho: PSS prioritizes safety for students, staff

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

After several recent drug-related arrests on Saipan unveiled guns in the hands of either an unregistered gun owner or guns with missing serial numbers, the Public School System said they've heightened their awareness and preparedness to protect students, especially as they enter another school year.

In light of these events, and last year's school shooting threats, *Saipan Tribune* met with Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and PSS associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna last Friday at the PSS Office on Capitol Hill

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PSS

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho shares his enthusiasm for the Public School System's readiness to open the new school year tomorrow, Tuesday, his first full school year.

Cannabis tourism industry reform efforts underway

MARK RABAGO

A cannabis plant at one of the cannabis commercial growers on Saipan.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Office of the Governor is currently in the process of reforming the cannabis tourism industry as well as

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CNMI SPJ hosts first forum after 30-year hiatus

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales, Liana Hofschneider, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), and James Rayphand pose for a photo after the CNMI Society of Professional Journalist's first delegate forum last Saturday.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Society of Professional Journalists, after over a 30-year hiatus, hosted its first delegate forum and garnered the participation of all five delegate candidates running in this year's election.

Last Saturday, the CNMI SPJ—which consists of all local media outlets in the CNMI—hosted

See SPJ on Page 4

PSS ready to open new school year

PSS

About 200 Special Education Program professionals including related service providers, led by Special Program director Donna M. Flores, are joined by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and key management in this group photo.

The school district wrapped up last Friday's series of professional development, training, and all back-to-school activities of all schools and programs of the preparation for Tuesday's opening of the new school year.

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INSIDE

LOCAL
A new coalition, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders for Harris-Walz, has been formed to support the election of Vice President Kamala Harris and Vice Presidential nominee Gov. Tim Walz.
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BUSINESS
There's a new house and office furniture store on Saipan following the opening of Halo Houseware in Gualo Rai last month.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
Nearly 10 months after the death of Matthew Perry, the long-simmering investigation into the ketamine that killed him came dramatically into public view with the announcement that five people had been charged with having roles in the overdose of the beloved "Friends" star.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

NMC to showcase local filmmakers at 'Marianas Lens'

Northern Marianas College will showcase the work of up-and-coming local filmmakers when it hosts "Marianas Lens," a showcase of short and feature films on Thursday, Aug. 22, at American Memorial Park starting at 5pm. Award-winning films will include "Steps on the Shore" by Elijah Pajarillaga, "Two of a Kind" by Jedric Villar, "Home's Second Chance" by Sheryne Yang, "Tala" by Justin Ocampo, and "ISLA: Isla'n Esperånsa" by Galvin Deleon Guerrero. Screenings will be followed by a panel discussion with some of the filmmakers.

NMC

A production still from "Steps on the Shore" by Elijah Pajarillaga.

'Steps on the Shore'

Pajarillaga's "Steps on the Shore" follows a high school graduate during his last days on island before heading off to college as he grapples with lingering conflicts involving family and his sense of belonging to the island. The film Best Made in the Marianas award at the 2022 Guam International Film Festival, also known as the GIFF. The film, which he wrote, directed, and starred in, bested three other films to win the coveted award.

Pajarillaga is a son of the Marianas who graduated in 2021 from Grace Christian Academy Saipan and is currently pursuing a film degree from Wesleyan University in Connecticut. At Wesleyan, he has also been a videographer for the university's Communications Department and the Women's Volleyball Team.

'Two of a Kind'

Villar's "Two of a Kind" is a modern Western that serves as a sequel to "Two in a Pack". The film follows a wanderer who meets an unlikely ally to help clear his name. The film took home the Best Student Film at the AltFF Alternative Film Festival.

Also a son of the Marianas, Villar graduated in 2021 from Mount Carmel School and is currently studying film at Montclaire State University. At the university, he continues to collaborate with other filmmakers as a director, writer, and cinematographer. Villar also composed the score for another film to be screened at "Marianas Lens", Deleon Guerrero's "ISLA: Isla'n Esperånsa."

NMC

A production still from "Two of a Kind" by Jedric Villar.

'Home's Second Chance'

Yang's "Home's Second Chance" is a visual poem about the light beauty and dark tragedy of Saipan.

Produced as part of the college's 2023 Cinema on Saipan summer seminar, the film also took home the top Proa Award at the seminar's concluding film festival.

NMC

A production still from "Home's Second Chance" by Sheryne Yang.

NMC

A production still from "Tala" by Justin Ocampo.

According to Yang, the film "is a short visual poem of how a home should be taken care of the place we call home."

'Tala'

In Ocampo's "Tala," a naive girl struggles with the reality that her father is not the ideal man she's built him up to be as she works towards reconciliation with the other members of her family in this semi- autobiographical family drama. "Tala" has been featured in film festival around the world, including the GIFF, the Cebu International Film Festival, and the Hawaii International Film Festival.

Born and raised on Saipan, Ocampo is the son of Tagalog and Kapampangan immigrants. His directorial debut film, "We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas' Story" won Best of Festival at the GIFF in 2018, was featured at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival that same year, and is available for rent on Amazon Prime. Ocampo graduated with degrees in Digital Cinema and American Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is currently the lead media specialist for the Honolulu City Council.

'Isla'n Esperånsa'

Deleon Guerrero's "ISLA: Isla'n Esperånsa" follows a high school math genius who enters the island's criminal underworld of high-stakes gambling in order to earn enough money to take him and his family to the states. Earlier this year, the film premiered at Hollywood Theatres to a sold-out audience and is currently making its way through the film festival circuit, which has included screenings at the Tokyo Lift-Off Film Festival and the Portland Film Festival. The film is the first of three anthology films that will explore themes of faith, hope, and love in the Marianas.

With almost 30 years in educational leadership, Deleon Guerrero has also produced over 50 stage and film productions ranging from plays by William Shakespeare, Disney musicals, to original scripts. These productions included award-winning films that have been featured in film festivals around the world, such as the "We Drank Our Tears" anthology that tells the stories of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian civilians surviving during the World War II battles on Saipan.

Held as part of Northern Marianas College's Welcome Week for the 2024-2025 academic year, "Marianas Lens" is being coordinated by the College's Community Development Institute to promote career-technical training in emerging industries like film and videography. For more information about upcoming programs and training opportunities, contact the institute at cdi@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6802.

All films will be screened starting at 5pm at American Memorial Park's Visitors Center Theater. While admission is complimentary, seating is limited on a first-come, first-served basis. ***(PR)***

Rotary Club awards Paul Harris Fellow to Holl, 2 others

RACQUEL FLOYD

Irene Holl, fourth from the left, poses with the Rotary Club of Saipan past presidents and current officers after receiving her plaque of appreciation during the Rotary Club's meeting last Tuesday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Mike Sablan received his third Paul Harris Fellow pin.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A plaque of appreciation was awarded to Irene Holl during the Rotary Club of Saipan's meeting last Tuesday in the Terrace Room of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

The plaque was given to Holl to show appreciation for her being the Rotary Club of Saipan president for the year 2023-2024. As a former president, she was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow pin. Other Rotarians who were awarded Paul Harris Fellow certificates and pins were Sean Ficke and Mike Sablan, who acquired his third Paul Harris pin.

The highest recognition the Rotary Club can bestow is the Paul Harris Fellow. It is presented to a Rotarian or a community member who has made an outstanding contribution to the community. The Paul Harris Fellow Program was established by Rotary International in 1957 to show appreciation and recognize individuals who contribute, or have contributions made in their name, of $1,000 to the Rotary Foundation.

During the meeting, members who are celebrating the month of August and Rotary membership anniversary were also honored. The following members whose membership anniversaries were recognized were Dennis Yashimoto for 39 years, Joe Torres for five years, Cathy Attao-Toves in her first year, and Charles Cepeda for his ninth year.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Sean Ficke receives his Paul Harris Fellow award.

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ISLA KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
(A:) Kagman III, (B:) Southern (San Antonio), (C:) Tinian

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Chief Executive Officer
Salary Range: Up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate
Note: The salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant
Opening Date: August 16, 2024
Closing Date: September 15, 2024
Location: 6690 Kagman Road

("This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 22H80CS31624 for Health Center Program. This information, or content and conclusions, are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.")

Position Summary: We are seeking an exceptional leader to join our team as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This pivotal role involves steering the organization towards its strategic vision, ensuring operational excellence, and maintaining financial health. The CEO will oversee a robust team, manage substantial federal funds, and uphold compliance with all regulatory standards. Regular travel to the US and neighboring islands is required.

Duties and Responsibilities:
- Develop and implement the organization's strategic goals in partnership with the Board of Directors. Foster a culture of excellence and community engagement.
- Ensure efficient daily operations, compliance with HRSA guidelines, and adherence to federal, and local CNMI regulations.
- Oversee a $3 million budget, manage program income, and ensure compliance with funding requirements. Pursue additional funding opportunities and maintain financial transparency.
- Collaborate with the CMO to ensure high-quality medical services. Promote patient-centered care and best practices.
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations, manage risks & oversee internal/external audits for the 340B Drug Program.
- Lead recruitment, development, and retention of a workforce. Foster and inclusive and positive work environment.
- Serve as the primary liaison to the Board of Directors, providing regular updates and supporting governance functions.
- Engage with regional partners & stakeholders, participate in industry conferences, and represent KCHC in the community.

Qualification Requirements:
- **Education:** Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration, Public Health, or a related field.
- **Experience:** Minimum of 10 years of progressive leadership experience in healthcare management with at least 5 years in an executive role within an FQHC or similar organization.
- **Skills:** Exceptional leadership, strategic planning, and financial management abilities. Strong understanding of healthcare regulations and compliance. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- **Requirements:** Commitment to the Kagman Isla FQHC's conflict of interest policy. **(Note: Immediate relatives of current employees or board members will not be considered for this position.)**

Benefits Package:
- **Competitive Salary:** Depending on qualifications, up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate.
- **Retirement:** 401(k) plan with company matching.
- **Healthcare:** Medical, Dental & Vision
- **Paid Time-Off:** 4 Weeks Paid Time-Off Annually

How to Apply: Applicants must apply in person at Kagman Community Health Center, 6690, Kagman Road
Note: Full Detailed Job Description Available Upon Request.

P.O. BOX 5723 CHRB, SAIPAN MP 96950 – 6690 KAGMAN ROAD, KAGMAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, KAGMAN III
Tel: (670)256-5240/2/3/7/8 Fax: (670) 256-5244/9 http://kagmanchc.org

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

AMENDMENT No. 1
NMHC IFB 2024-008

BID SUBMISSION DATE: ~~August 08, 2024~~ August 22, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL GYM HVAC PROJECT

Project Package will be available on June 24, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

Brief description of the project package is available on the NMHC CDBG-DR Website at https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/ "Procurement Tab".

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office Conference located in Garapan, Saipan on **July 09, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

AMENDMENT (1)
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will continue its special meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (Note: the initial special meeting was conducted on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., and recessed at 2:41 p.m.) The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance

PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
PUBLIC COMMENTS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. CDBG-DR Housing Update
b. CDBG-DR Infrastructure Update
DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
EXECUTIVE SESSION
a. Personnel Matters (CD Contract Renewal and CFO Status)
ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

CANNABIS

From page 1

kickstarting an export industry of cannabis and hemp products.

Last Thursday, Oscar M. Babauta Sr., the governor's special assistant for administration, issued a letter to all cannabis tourism industry stakeholders informing them of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' plans to reform the cannabis tourism industry.

In addition, Babauta, said, Palacios intends to establish an industry of exporting cannabis and hemp products.

To head this initiative, Babauta added that Palacios has retained the services of Ambrose M. Bennett.

"Pro Services' Ambrose M. Bennett has been retained by thegGovernor to lead his efforts to reform the cannabis tourism industry and try to create a hemp production and manufacturing industry for exporting hemp products," he said.

Babauta, in his letter, stated that the CNMI is in desperate need of a new revenue source and the cannabis industry was initially created to be a revenue source for the CNMI.

"As all of you are aware, the CNMI is in desperate need of new revenue sources and the purpose for creating the industries on paper by law was to generate new revenues. However, the government is presently spending over $200,000 a year more on the industry than what is being collected in taxes and fees from the cannabis tourism industry. We must fix this industry, or it was useless to create the industry," he said.

Babauta adds that there is also the fact that the CNMI is now in a "horse race" with Guam that now legalized recreational usage of cannabis.

"The governor has tasked me with working with Mr. Bennett and being the 'executive officer' for these reforms. It is critical that all stakeholders buy-in on the reforms that are driven by 'common sense and common practices related to the use of marijuana,'" he said.

In closing, Babauta asks that all stakeholders work with Bennett in creating the required reforms to make the cannabis tourism industry a productive revenue source for the CNMI government.

"To date, the cannabis tourism industry has yet to be promoted in any way and that must change if the CNMI is to reap real new revenues from the industry. You will be contacted in the near future by Mr. Bennett. It is the governor's sincere request that you work with Mr. Bennett on this confidential and time-sensitive matter," said Babauta.

SPJ

From page 1

a delegate forum with the intent of better informing the CNMI communities of their choices for U.S. delegate this coming general elections.

Joining last weekend's forum were official delegate candidates John "Bolis" Gonzales, Liana Hofschneider, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, House majority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), and James Rayphand.

The debate touched on three major topics—national politics, the economy, and the military and allowed each candidate ample time to answer the questions prepared by SPJ members.

Independent candidate Gonzales, in his statements, pulled at the hearts of members of the CNMI community assuring them that should he be voted delegate this November, his only goal will be to work for the people of the Marianas.

"I will never promise anything other than your caring, compassionate, calm, composed, and respectful leader as a member of Congress. I will not be a politician that never worked, I promise you I will be your servant. For over 30 years, I have helped all of you. I truly care for our people. I will fight for all of you, calm and respectfully, because we must do nothing less. People over politics because our people deserve the services as American citizens," he said.

Hofschneider, also an independent candidate, expressed that her goal, if elected the CNMI's representative in U.S. Congress, would be ensure that the CNMI attains a higher standard of living as promised by the Covenant.

"This is a very important day for us to share what is in our hearts and our minds and to share our vision and [our] kind of leadership. As you are aware, the CNMI signed a very important called the 'Covenant' to establish a relationship with the United States. It has been 49 years since then and 16 years since we have established Public Law 110-229 to set this relationship as a U.S, delegate. I ask you for your vote of confidence to share my vision of a new leadership. My agenda is the CNMI; to get us what was promised in the covenant. I want to see all of us have a higher standard of living. The first thing I will pursue is to increase the CNMI's minimum wage to $15 within the next five years," she said.

The CNMI Republican Party's candidate King-Hinds, for her part, banked on her experiences fighting against the federal government for the Marianas saying that she intends to use what she's learned throughout her journey to be the CNMI's champion in Washington.

"You deserve competency, you deserve representation that you're proud of. You also deserve a fair government that works to serve you. I'm a fighter, I'm an advocate, and I'm very passionate of the causes that I believe in. I have negotiated many different federal agreements that have brought significant benefits for the CNMI. When everybody told me that fighting against the Department of Defense was like David fighting Goliath, I didn't listen and stood firm and sued the DoD to ensure that Tinian and Pagan were not bombed. Now, we are in a situation where we have a very strong relationship with the DoD. That was me. I will use my expertise to and my passion to be the CNMI's champion in Washington. We have many challenges but I'm hopeful that together, there is nothing we cannot accomplish," she said.

Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands' champion, Propst, said thanks to the mentorship and support of incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), he has a better understanding of how to advocate for the CNMI in Washington and should he be given a chance, he will do his best to fill Sablan's shoes as best as he can.

"I want to ensure that I don't over promise and underdeliver. I will keep things real; I will talk to you as I would talk to anyone else. I've learned to always maintain humility and that core respect for your fellow colleagues. Something that is critical in Washinton D.C. I love these islands; I love these people. Together we will thrive, and together we can do great things," he said.

Rayphand, for his part, said his agenda has been and will be economic prosperity, educational excellence, domestic security, and cultural preservation.

"I've entered this race on a platform of four main things: economic prosperity, educational excellence, domestic security, and last but not least cultural preservation. I intent to run for the people's office in a two-prong approach, one being policy development in pursuit of this platform, and second direct consulate-type services for the people of the CNMI," he said.

For those interested in seeing the entire forum, visit the CNMI SPJ page on Facebook.

CAMACHO

From page 1

to discuss several of the safety measurements being taken by PSS.

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that along with preparing campuses and bus transportation for this school year, their team has been monitoring the levels of crime and seeking out advice and necessary precautions to ensure safety of students, staff, and faculty.

"We've had a great relationship with [the Department of Public Safety and Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services] and we've been communicating and collaborating with them in building our Emergency Operation Plan, so that we are all in understanding... so that if some crisis should occur each of us as agencies know our task and purpose at any given time," he said

Just this week, Camacho said PSS collaborated with the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and other agencies like the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., DPS, and DFEMS to formulate scenarios for an active shooter exercise.

At the end of this month, he said the aforementioned agencies will have their tabletop/final planning phase and then hopefully on September, they can consolidate during the Konfitma as the drills will occur in one of PSS' campuses.

Camacho assured community members that the safety of both the students and staff are their priority.

"We are really serious when it comes to keeping our campuses safe, despite the increasing crime. Even DPS is committed to reinstalling SRO (school resource) officers. In the meantime, we spoke to DPS and they said that they will be having more patrols as a sense of deterrence in all of our campuses. So that partnership is very valuable," he said.

He added that PSS seeks to provide that safe space for their students and staff.

"At any given day we have our kids in our hands at least from Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm or 7am to 5pm, and we understand that the majority of the CNMI's youth is in our campuses so we have to do everything we can to keep them safe... We care for and we love our kids, we know them by heart, and we are watching their growth...It may seem like they're just coming and going but those teachers really do care about our kids, our students."

Camacho also gave a big shoutout to PSS teachers, staff, faculty, and those who have been dedicated in providing not only a safe space, but also a great educational experience for children and young adults in the CNMI.

"The folks there, the teachers, the staff they have this heart to really care for the kids as if they are their own. That's the standard. That's our standard."

SCHOOL

From page 1

Tomorrow, Tuesday, Aug. 20, nearly 1,400 PSS employees will return to work in anticipation of welcoming 9,000-10,000 students and the reopening of 20 Saipan, Tinian, and Rota elementary, middle, and high school campuses as well as 10 Head Start/Early Head Start centers.

Close to 40 PSS yellow buses and special education vans will also roll out on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to pick them up at designated bus stops/pick-up points and drop them off at their respective schools and centers.

"We are ready to start to open the new school year," Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho said. "I am as excited as everyone else."

On Friday, Camacho joined Special Education Program director Donna M. Flores in welcoming over 200 SPED professionals. These professionals include teachers, teacher aides, speech pathologists, speech therapists, and related service providers. The PSS-SPED Program held its SY2024-2025 back-to-school professional development at Grandvrio Resort Saipan.

In his remarks, Camacho said the special education program is very personal to him. He knows how SPED professionals provide invaluable services and impact the lives of individuals with special needs.

"I am a brother and an uncle of a person with special needs, and I know how you impact lives," said Camacho in addressing the single largest gathering of PSS program personnel.

'First full school year'

This is the first full school year for Camacho, who was only appointed last January. The education chief praised the Board of Education for their continued support.

"This is my first back-to-school experience as commissioner of education—and based on my conversations with our teachers, staff, parents, and students, I know you have given everything you can to our children. This is because you are also getting all the necessary support from your leaders, from our Board of Education to our PSS central office personnel."

The education chief praised SPED Program director Flores for her leadership and role in the school district.

"Director Donna is a great adviser to me, to us, on matters of special education program and other key initiatives of the school system. Her role is invaluable," Camacho said. "This is the reason why you have my support and my team's support at central office, to ensure that our SPED Program will continue to succeed."

Based on the last school year data, 2022-2023, the PSS-SPED Program has over 1,000 students. Children with special needs who are ages 0-5 and are receiving special education services are enrolled into the Early Intervention Program (if they are 0-2 years old), and the Early Childhood Program if they are 3-5 years old. The PSS SPED Program also provides similar support and program for students with special needs enrolled in private schools.

These services are provided by various PSS-SPED personnel, which represent about 20% of the school district's total workforce.

"You all coming together reassures me how committed you are as teachers, teacher aides, bus drivers, speech pathologist, therapist, administrative staff," adds the education chief. "Our students will not succeed without all of you…and you are supporting our general education teachers."

The SPED Program director echoed the education chief's message.

"You are the ultimate professionals who work together with our general education teachers. The commissioner of education (Dr. Camacho) is all praises of you because of what you do," said Flores.

The Friday SPED professional development was facilitated by June Deleon of University of Guam's CEDDERS Program. ***(PR)***

BPD gains NTIA approval, sets stage for subgrantee process

The CNMI Broadband Policy & Development Office announces the successful completion of its Challenge Process, a critical step in the ongoing efforts to expand and enhance broadband access across the Northern Mariana Islands. The results of this process have been officially approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, marking a significant milestone in the CNMI's broadband development planning journey.

What is the Challenge Process?

The Challenge Process, initiated by the CNMI BPD Office, was designed to identify and resolve any disputes regarding broadband-serviceable locations within the CNMI. This process ensured that all areas in need of broadband services were accurately mapped and that no discrepancies existed. The Challenge Process was hosted on the Pacific Research & Coastal Planning's ArcGIS platform and was made accessible through the CNMI BPD's website. The Challenge Phase was conducted from June 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, in strict adherence to NTIA guidelines. The BPD Office provided comprehensive resources, including a Challenge Process Overview PowerPoint, a Fact Sheet, and a list of all locations available to challenge, which included community anchor institutions such as schools, clinics, and libraries.

Outcome of the Challenge Process

Prior to the Challenge Process, all 11,065 Broadband Serviceable Locations were identified as unserved based on the National Broadband Availability Map Data. Following the successful completion of the BEAD Challenge Process, the final results showed that 10,783 locations are now eligible for BEAD funding. This includes 143 unserved locations, 10,640 underserved locations, and 282 served locations. The approved final list of BSL locations has been published on our BPD website.

NTIA approval and next steps

On Aug. 5, 2024, the NTIA officially approved the CNMI BPD Office's Challenge Process results. This approval confirms the accuracy and reliability of the broadband-serviceable location data for over 11,000 locations within the CNMI, including more than 40 community anchor institutions.

With the Challenge Process successfully concluded and NTIA approval secured, the CNMI BPD Office will now proceed with the subgrantee process as part of the implementation phase of its Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program.

Public access and contact information

The public is encouraged to review the Broadband Serviceable Location and Community Anchor Institutions lists, which are available on the BPD website at bpd.cnmi.gov. For any questions or concerns, individuals can reach out to the CNMI BPD Office via email at cnmi.bpd@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Smoke testing for CK on Aug. 20-23

CUC

The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s smoke tests that will be conducted in Chalan Kanoa village beginning Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024, through Friday, Aug. 23, 2024.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that smoke tests will be conducted in the Chalan Kanoa village beginning Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024, through Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, from 9am to 3pm. The purpose of the smoke test is to locate leaks, breaks, and illegal connections in CUC's sewer system.

About the smoke test

A smoke test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic smoke is forced into sewer system access points. The smoke travels through all connected pipes in the sewer system, indicating pipe leaks, breached utility holes, cracks, uncapped lines, and other defects.

Testers can also locate unknown pipe sections, such as cleanouts, downspouts, and sump pumps.

The smoke is nontoxic, nonhazardous, and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residue or stains and has no effects on plants or animals. The smoke is not expected to enter your home; however, if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should clear out within a few minutes with proper ventilation. Please be advised that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water before the test.

To ensure the safety of our CUC crew, certain roadways will be closed during the testing period to allow the Wastewater crew to access the manholes. Motorists are advised to reduce speed and exercise caution while driving in the area or take alternative routes.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding in helping identify customer connections. We aim to conduct these tests efficiently while minimizing disruption to customers' daily activities. By proactively engaging in this testing, CUC reaffirms its commitment to providing reliable wastewater services for the community.

For more information, contact our hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit CUC's website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Temporary road closure for Lower Miha Village in Garapan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to notify the general public of the ongoing sewer line replacement construction along Adetfa Street in Lower Miha Village, Garapan. The temporary road closure, initially scheduled from July 3 to July 17, and extended to July 31, will now continue until Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024, due to unforeseen circumstances.

CUC's contractor, Hong Ye Construction, will continue temporarily closing Adetfa Street and Kalachucha Avenue to replace the existing ACP sewer line and establish a new route. This project also involves reconnecting residences affected by the construction. The temporary road closure hours are from 6am to 7pm, with possible adjustments based on tide level and existing hard rock conditions of the trench, affecting the groundwater level, and interfering with the construction work.

Detour signs will be displayed to inform the traveling public of the restrictions. Customers in the area will not experience any disruption to their power, water, or wastewater services as a result of the work.

About the project

The Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide a more reliable sewer system to the CNMI. The transition work is part of the decommissioning of the old sewer line and will be replaced with PVC pipes.

CUC encourages the public to avoid these areas during construction and appreciates your cooperation in accommodating the traffic restrictions necessary to complete this critical infrastructure improvement project for our customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950: TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2024 Third General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 2024– 10:00am - 1:30pm
Venue: Crowne Plaza Resort – Azucena Room
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of August 21, 2024 Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of SILC's FY'24 2nd General Membership Meeting Minutes of May 01, 2024
V. Reports
a. SILC Chairperson
b. OVR Director
c. CLI Director
VI. Old Business
a. Membership Updates (appointments/re-appointments)
b. Election of Fiscal Officer
c. NCIL Conference
VII. New Business
a. IL Core Services
VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
a. Next Joint SILC/SRC membership meeting.
IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call James M. Rayphand, OVR Director at 322-6537/6538 or email jimbo@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements in advance before the meeting date.

/s/ **Nicolas DLC Torres, SILC Chairperson**

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living (DHHS/ACL), Grant #2301MPILSG.

Commonwealth Zoning Board
Special Meeting
August 22, 2024 | 10:00 AM
Zoning Office Conference Room • Chalan Laulau, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

(continuation from 07/26/24)

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters:
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings:
1. None

C. New Business:
1. Proposed Text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 (as Amended) – For Board Review and Action

D. Executive Session

E. Announcements

F. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DCCA/CCDF-42400145

SUBMISSION DATE: September 28, 2024
TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "E" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS/CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 12386, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARIBEL D. LOSTE AT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND, AT (670) 3664-2573 OR (670) 664-2590.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VIVIAN T. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 165

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Kyiv hits back against Putin—Ukraine's taking of Russian territory could be a turning point

About two and a half years into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the latter has turned the tables with an incursion into the Russian region of Kursk—once the site of a pivotal WWII battle—that by some estimates has left it with control of more than 1,000 square kilometers.

While both countries have now taken territory, there is no equivalence at all: Russia's attack on Ukraine was wholly unprovoked, whereas Ukraine's incursion is in direct response to Russia's attempted subjugation. Russia is in Ukraine's territory because it intends to annex it as part of some misguided imperial project, forcing full assimilation or else.

Ukraine has no intention of annexing Russia's territory, but instead under President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is seeking to temporarily hold it as leverage over the much larger aggressor, having realized that Russian President Vladimir Putin can keep throwing troops at the conflict and won't be easily dissuaded without more acute consequences. The Ukrainian troops have targeted Russian forces and caused some Russian civilians to flee, but are not engaged in a wide campaign of terror, morale-breaking and war crimes, as their Russian counterparts have been credibly accused of doing during their invasion.

Putin wanted war, he's getting war. He believed his "special military operation" would have his troops marching into Kyiv within the week and Zelenskyy would fold, and he was dead wrong. These are the consequences; the despot has no ground to stand on to cry foul. Let's hope that Zelenskyy and his military leadership has gamed out the impact on all the front lines, as this offensive, tactically sound as it might be in its objectives, should not come at the cost of losing ground to Russian advances elsewhere.

It's worth bearing in mind that an offensive of this type, against a far bigger adversary, is only possible because of support from the United States, NATO and other allies. Everything from the Ukrainians' small arms to drones to artillery ammunition depends in large part on this aid, which is what sustains their ability to keep Russia at bay and strike back. Without these commitments, Ukraine would have certainly lost this war already, and we would all be worse off and less secure because of it.

Whatever historic claims to Ukraine Putin claims to have, it's obvious that this flimsy rationalization would not stop him from looking further afield. He's always hated the notion of a European mutual-defense pact, and attacked Ukraine in part to stick it to NATO. What's to stop him from continuing on this project if he were to succeed with Ukraine? If anything, he'd be far more emboldened, though would have a diminished military with which to actually pursue these ends; despite his projected attributes, though, the man is clearly not all too strategic.

The tides of the war have appeared to have shifted enough

See KYIV on Page 7

IT'S FOOTBALL TIME IN AMERICA AGAIN!
HEY YOU all COOL it down over there! we got more important and fun things to do!
USA
HARRIS
TRUMP

Trump is either delusional or confused. He's unfit for the White House either way

By GEORGE SKELTON
Los Angeles Times

Who except a deranged person would concoct a story about being in a scary helicopter emergency landing with a guy who wasn't even there?

If not deranged, that person is at least delusional.

Maybe confused, but that's just as worrisome. What rational mind can't remember the details of plummeting from the sky and facing possible death in a chopper?

I was riding in a helicopter that was forced to make an emergency landing 58 years ago and still remember every detail, including the other passenger.

Political writer Peter Kaye of the San Diego Union and I were covering Gov. Pat Brown's last 1966 campaign swing in Los Angeles when our chopper lost power and almost smacked into an apartment building. A sound person doesn't forget specifics of such a frightening venture.

More likely in the above case, it was just another example of former President Donald Trump's perpetual, pathological lying.

And it was clearly weird, to use Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz's favorite description of the former president, who again is the Republican nominee for leader of the free world.

Regardless of the root cause, even the 78-year-old Trump's most loyal lemmings should seriously wonder about his mental fitness to again serve as America's president—its commander in chief with access to nuclear codes and our negotiator with foreign leaders, allies and adversaries alike.

In deep blue California, there's no evidence that Trump's continued bizarre behavior is eroding his support, such as it is. But undecided voters have been shifting to the Democratic ticket of Vice President Kamala Harris and running mate Walz.

Harris leads Trump by 59% to 34%, with Harris running 7 percentage points higher than President Joe Biden did in late February, according to a new state survey by UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies. Trump's vote hasn't changed.

Trump's inaccurate yarn about almost crashing in a helicopter with former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown while Brown was telling "terrible things" about Harris was just nutty.

Trump went off the rails during a rambling, hourlong news conference at his Mar-a-Lago Florida resort last week.

NPR counted 162 "lies and distortions" by the former president in his Q&A.

Trump's fabrication that got the most attention, of course, was this spiel:

"Well, I know Willie Brown very well. In fact, I went down in a helicopter with him. We thought maybe this is the end. We were in a helicopter going to a certain location together and there was an emergency landing.

"This was not a pleasant landing. And Willie was—he was a little concerned. So I know him. I know him pretty well. I mean, I haven't seen him in years. But he told me terrible things about (Harris). He was not a fan of hers very much at that point."

First , this showed Trump's stupidity. He didn't realize—or perhaps didn't care—that reporters would immediately call Brown, 90, who debunked the entire story.

To start with, Trump does not know Brown "very well." In fact, he barely knows him at all. They've talked only once in their lives, Brown told me, and that was 30 years ago at a New York lunch where Trump sought the then-state Assembly speaker's advice on trying to develop the old Ambassador Hotel site in Los Angeles. The project collapsed.

Brown says he has never been in a helicopter with Trump.

Most importantly, anyone who really knows Brown knows he would never badmouth Harris.

The two dated for a year or two in the mid-1990s and Brown helped launch her political career, starting with San Francisco district attorney. The two remain friendly. And at the top of Brown's values list is loyalty to friends and allies.

"Noooooo," Brown replied when I asked whether he had ever talked to Trump about Harris. "Hell, no. Not at all."

"He's in total panicsville," he said of Trump. "You can't attribute anything that equates to logic to him."

What I see is a slumping candidate so desperate that he invented Brown's chopper conversation to take a swipe at Harris.

Brown is a Black man and Trump did go down in an emergency helicopter landing with another Black California politician in the 1990s.

Nate Holden, a former L.A. City Council member and state legislator, also was invited to New York — separately from Brown—to discuss the Ambassador project with Trump.

"Willie is the short Black guy living in San Francisco," Holden said. "I'm the tall Black guy living in Los Angeles."

"As they say, we all look the same," Holden, 95, told Times reporter Don Lee, laughing.

Trump incredulously continued to insist it was Brown aboard the crippled chopper and claimed he had maintenance records and logs to prove it. But they've never been produced.

Barbara Res, once a top Trump executive, was also on that flight. She essentially confirmed Holden's account in a 2013 book, "All Alone on the 68th Floor."

"That's the story, OK," Res told Politico. "No Willie Brown."

Holden said Trump "either mixed it up or he made it up."

Maybe a little of both. He certainly made up Brown's bashing of Harris.

His unhinged pattern of loony behavior should scare America.

And the puzzling question is why the once-formidable California GOP keeps following this unstable character into a sump.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Nicolás Maduro's landslide defeat hasn't dislodged him. Is there still hope for Venezuela?

By WILL FREEMAN
Los Angeles Times

Will Freeman is a fellow for Latin America studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Latin American left has a decision to make about Venezuela: Oppose Nicolás Maduro's totalitarian bid to remain in power indefinitely or enable it. Efforts to constrain Maduro may not succeed. But giving in to him will destabilize neighboring countries—with consequences for the United States—undermine the left's claims to respect democracy and possibly cost its leaders political support.

According to an Associated Press review of about 80% of Venezuelan voting machines' paper tallies provided by the opposition, Maduro lost the July 28 election to opposition coalition candidate Edmundo González Urrutia by a more than 2-to-1 margin. Rather than acknowledge it, however, Maduro simply announced that he had won and blamed an unsubstantiated cyberattack by Elon Musk for his inability to prove it.

Maduro's blatant steal marks a dark new chapter in Venezuela. Until July 28, the country was authoritarian with a patina of democracy, holding periodic unfree, unfair elections. Now that Maduro knows he lacks the popular support to win even on a tilted playing field, he is scrapping the facade and going full totalitarian, exceeding even his previous crackdowns.

Maduro's government has arrested more than 2,000 people without trial since election day; deployed Russian Wagner group mercenaries, Cuban secret police and other forces; and promised to send critics to "reeducation camps." At least 24 people have been killed since election day.

Venezuela's descent into authoritarianism and a coinciding economic collapse in the 2010s pushed about 8 million Venezuelans into exile abroad, more than half a million of whom came to the United States; fueled Colombia's internal armed conflict by providing rebels with a haven on Venezuelan territory; and polarized Latin American politics into pro- and anti-Venezuela camps.

The lurch toward full-fledged totalitarianism could prove even more destabilizing. Preelection polls suggested about 3.7 million additional people planned to migrate if Maduro remained entrenched. Given Venezuela's abundance of armed groups and Maduro's naked lack of legitimacy, it's not hard to imagine his government losing control as warring forces vie for territory.

Can anything hold Maduro back? Barring an improbable uprising within his security forces, further mass protests seem unlikely to rein him in. The United States could tighten its sanctions, but Maduro and his inner circle already know how to live under them, having forged ties with other pariah states during their years of isolation dating to the Trump administration.

If anyone outside the country has any leverage, it's those often seen as Maduro's friends: the leftist presidents of Brazil, Mexico and Colombia.

These leaders have taken Maduro's side at times, but Colombia's Gustavo Petro and Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva have criticized him more recently. They even dissuaded Maduro's government from disqualifying opposition candidate González—as it had opposition leader María Corina Machado and the first candidate chosen to replace her. Since the election, Mexico's Andrés Manuel López Obrador has joined Petro and Lula in demanding the release of voting tallies.

The three presidents aren't pushing Maduro to honor the results and concede outright, which would risk rupturing their ties with Venezuela's ruling party and upsetting pro-Maduro hardliners in their own. Given that Maduro threatened to move troops through Brazilian territory to invade Guyana last year, Lula might also fear what he could do if he were even more isolated and vengeful. But the presidents of Brazil and Colombia have said publicly that they are eager to avert mass bloodshed. Brazil is also keen to prevent China and Russia, which quickly recognized Maduro's "win," from becoming more involved in the hemisphere and increasing geopolitical tensions, the newspaper O Globo reported.

Given their preference for behind-the-scenes diplomacy—and the risks of burning bridges by publicly slamming Venezuela's government—if the three leaders are seeking to sway Maduro or his inner circle, it's happening behind closed doors.

That could produce a range of outcomes. Endorsing another election with a weaker opposition figure on the ballot would amount to propping up Maduro. If the leftist leaders pursue that course or simply do nothing as Maduro's crackdown proceeds, they will enable another exodus, more economic chaos and further isolation while discrediting themselves.

Pushing Maduro toward a power-sharing deal and giving his opponents control of some government institutions—as the U.S. government envisioned in 2020—could move Venezuela closer to democracy and increase the opposition's leverage. The alternative—hoping mass protests push security forces to break with Maduro—looks increasingly unlikely.

Petro, Lula and AMLO don't have to be idealists to act. They should see the parallels between what's happening in Venezuela today and the repression the left suffered under their own countries' authoritarian regimes decades ago. But they also have self-interested reasons to get involved. Many of the voters and allies the leftist leaders need to win elections and implement policy will be alienated if they ignore or embrace Maduro's totalitarian turn.

Their response will also send an important signal about the health of their own democracies, which are home to nearly 60% of Latin Americans. Colombia's and Mexico's presidents are pushing for major institutional changes; Brazil's president took office only after a failed coup plot. Government critics in all three countries allege, with varying amounts of evidence, that they will roll back democracy or are already doing so. Standing aside as Maduro crushes his opponents would not convince anyone otherwise.

Hopes (including mine) that an overwhelming opposition victory would produce fissures within the Maduro government and enable a transition were not borne out. If there is any hope for such an outcome now, it rests with Venezuela's neighbors.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Against history of islander resistance

Dear Gov. Palacios, CNMI legislators,

We are writing in regards to a recent Radio New Zealand interview with the Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero (https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio id=2018949854). In her interview, Leon Guerrero defends the use of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles in Guam. We find this latest development troubling given our island's historical stance against the introduction of nuclear storage and waste.

As a community organization dedicated to protecting our islands, seas, and community from irreparable damage caused by harmful developments such as militarization, we write with urgent and grave concern to urge government officials to continue to support the voices of our people by speaking out against the introduction of nuclear weapons, storage and waste in our region of the world, let alone within our Marianas archipelago and surrounding waters. There is perhaps nothing more threatening to our islands and way of life than nuclear weapons which have the ability to destroy places for countless generations down the line.

As islanders, we see our land and sea as deeply connected to one another despite our distances.

The invitation to bring nuclear power to Guam goes against the history of islander resistance to such dangerous technologies including anti-nuclear movements such as the Free and Independent Nuclear Pacific. We also find this to be alarming knowing the history of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, French Polynesia, and other Pacific Islands, where islanders have long been used as test cases for scientific research in the name of mankind. We recognize that nuclear power is an existential threat to our islands and way of life.

We believe that the CNMI can become an environmental beacon throughout the Pacific, through our legislation and community practices that promote an equitable and nuclear-free region. Our elders have historically championed a clean and healthful environment and we want to preserve this wisdom for future generations. We want to highlight and reference Article I, Section 9 of the CNMI Constitution which reads:

Section 9: Clean and Healthful Environment. -Each person has the right to a clean and healthful public environment in all areas, including the land, air, and water. Harmful and unnecessary noise pollution, and the storage of nuclear or radioactive material and the dumping or storage of any type of nuclear waste within the surface or submerged lands and waters of the Northern Mariana Islands, are prohibited except as provided by law.

This constitutional provision mandates the CNMI government to oppose the plans of the Pentagon and the territory of Guam to harbor nuclear weapons in such close proximity to the CNMI. We implore you and your administration to denounce and oppose the move to bring nuclear armaments and materials to our region. The idea of harboring weapons as a deterrence strategy for peace is unsustainable.

The "security" behind the threat of mutually-assured destruction is not a livable option for anyone, much less the people of the Marianas.

Our goal as Pacific Islanders is disarmament—not more nuclear weapons-and envisioning a world where conflict and geopolitical tensions are resolved via diplomacy and genuine security, a term coined by the International Women's Network Against Militarism (http://iwnam.org).

In their definition, genuine security means: 1) that the environment can sustain life, 2) people's basic needs are met, 3) human dignity is respected, 4) people's sovereignty is assured, 5) and society is organized so as to prevent avoidable harms. The endless militarization we are witnessing in the Marianas, alongside the increasing use of nuclear weapons cannot assure us of anything other than destruction in the name of peace.

We would also like to highlight CNMI House Joint Resolution 22-11 (https://cnmileg.net/documents/house/hse ires/22/HJR22-11.pdf) that "oppose[d] any government's actions related to nuclear testing, storage, and waste disposal in the Pacific, and reaffirm everyone's fundamental right to a safe and healthy living environment". Although this resolution was duly adopted by both legislature chambers in response to Japan's decision to dump treated nuclear waste into the Pacific, the spirit of the resolution rings true for what will happen soon in Guam. The resolution recounted the tremendous joint-effort of both the CNMI and Guam governors traveling to Japan and advocating against nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific. As present-day Mariana Islanders, we must respect their efforts and the cause they championed. The move to bring nuclear weapons to our front door step goes against that spirit.

In closing, as community members dedicated to the protection of our lands, we once again urge all government officials to uplift the message that nuclear weapons cannot bring peace to a region that has suffered from war. We do not believe that our islands are resigned to war "no matter what," and instead want to state that this fatalistic perspective only promotes endless warmongering and fear in the region. We believe in viewing security from the entire archipelago and surrounding seas where our connections to one another are prioritized, our environmental safety is respected and a future free from contamination is guaranteed to future generations.

We want to extend our sincere appreciation for giving us the opportunity to share our concerns. We are grateful to your administration for continuing to uphold our CNMI Constitution's provisions. Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisou, and thank you.

Our Common Wealth 670
Via email

KYIV

From page 6

that no one can say with any measure of certainty how things are going to go. This Ukrainian taking of Russian territory certainly marks a shift, both in momentum and strategy. How significant, we'll have to see, but one thing is for sure: Ukraine needs us and its other allies, and is proving that it can effectively use the tools we give it. Let's not let domestic political squabbling derail that help.

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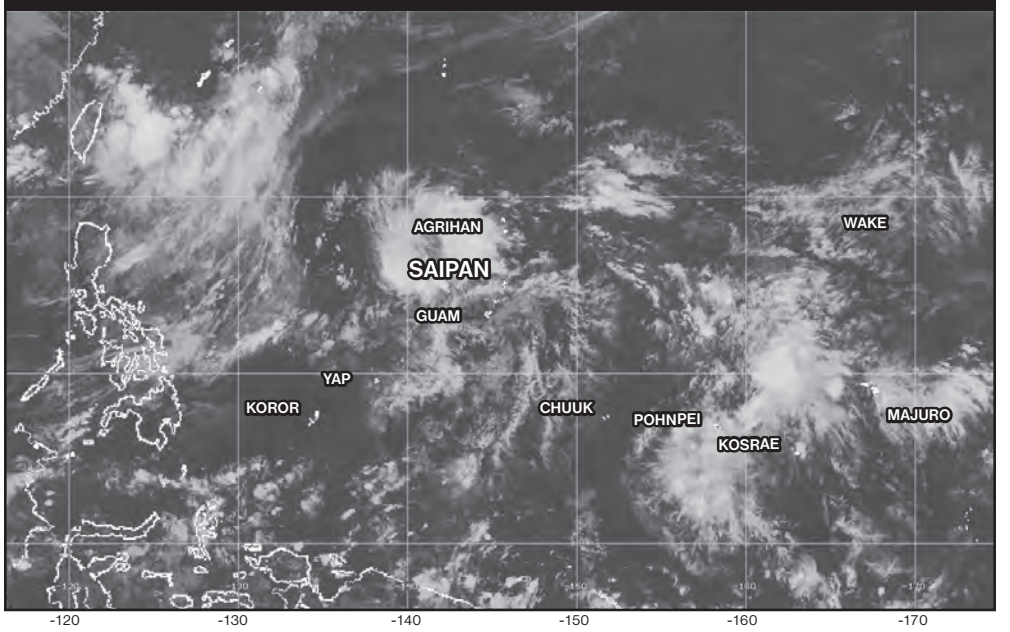
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
86° 80°	87° 79°	87° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:48 AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A string of surface troughs will maintain a scattered shower regime for the Marianas. Refreshed the winds and waves for the next 24 hours, changes were minor though. Mainly gentle to moderate winds through Tuesday, with combined seas of 3 to 5 feet at Guam and Rota and 4 to 6 feet at Tinian and Saipan. Around Wednesday or Thursday, the winds will become light to gentle and the waves will be 3 to 5 feet across the board. In general, benign marine conditions will continue.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 74°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:08 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	-	6:11 AM	7:10 PM
Wednesday	-	7:12 AM	7:53 PM
Thursday	-	8:11 AM	8:36 PM
Friday	-	9:10 AM	9:18 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	54° / 43°
Beijing	Cloudy	90° / 76°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Sunny	91° / 63°
Los Angeles	Sunny	91° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 76°
Melbourne	Showers	58° / 44°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
New York	Rain	87° / 70°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°
Paris	Sunny	94° / 66°
Busan	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Rome	Thunderstorms	89° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms	84° / 70°
San Francisco	Cloudy	72° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	87° / 71°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	86° / 67°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:04 AM	Low Tide	1.35
6:06 AM	High Tide	2.11
1:26 PM	Low Tide	-0.29
8:24 PM	High Tide	2.07

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander leaders announce support for Harris, Walz

HONOLULU, Hawaii—A new coalition, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders for Harris-Walz, has been formed to support the election of Vice President Kamala Harris and Vice Presidential nominee Gov. Tim Walz. Comprised of prominent and respected NHPI community leaders from Hawaii, the continental United States, and the Pacific Territories, this group is dedicated to championing the Harris-Walz vision for a more inclusive and equitable America.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, State Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Honolulu City Council Vice-Chair and former Assistant Secretary of the Interior under President Obama Esther Kiaʻāina, and Robin Nomaʻaea and Willie Salaveʻa, co-founders of the Pacific Islanders for Harris Facebook group with over 4,000 members, will serve as the co-chairs of NHPI for Harris-Walz. They bring extensive experience and dedication to advancing NHPI communities to this pivotal role.

Leon Guerrero of Guam noted, "Understanding our Pacific Islander communities who span across the U.S. continent, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is so important. I am confident that a Harris/Walz Administration will not only work with our diverse communities but help to strengthen our ties with the federal government."

State Senator Jarrett Keohokalole remarked, "It is crucial to have a President who understands our issues and will build an administration dedicated to addressing the challenges that affect us. Vice President Harris has shown her commitment to our communities, and with Governor Walz, they will lead with integrity and purpose."

AP

Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, right, and running mate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz attend a campaign rally at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024.

Kiaʻāina stated, "Organizing our NHPI communities is vital to ensuring our voices are heard at every level of government. Vice President Harris and Governor Walz recognize the strength and resilience of our people, and they are committed to uplifting our communities through meaningful engagement and representation."

Nomaʻaea and Salaveʻa added, "We need an administration that believes in equity, fairness, and doing the right thing for the people over their own self-interests. Vice President Harris and Governor Walz embody these values, and their leadership will pave the way for a brighter and more just future for all."

NHPI for Harris-Walz will engage in various outreach and advocacy efforts to mobilize NHPI voters and ensure their concerns are represented in the upcoming election. The coalition plans to host community events, forums, and informational sessions to educate and inspire NHPI communities to participate in the democratic process.

Prominent Endorsements

We are honored to have the support of many well-respected NHPI leaders who have publicly endorsed the Harris-Walz ticket, including:

- Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Guam
- Former Hawaii Governor John Waiheʻe
- U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Commonwealth of Northern
- Mariana Island (CNMI)
- Former U.S. Congressman Kaialiʻi Kahele, Hawaiʻi
- Vice President Michelle Kidani, Hawaiʻi State Senate
- Majority Leader Dru Mamo Kanuha, Hawaiʻi State Senate
- Majority Whip Jarrett Keohokalole, Hawaiʻi State Senate
- State Representative Daniel Holt, Hawaiʻi State House of Representatives
- State Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Hawaiʻi State House of Representatives
- State Representative Jeannè Kapela, Hawaiʻi State House of Representatives
- State Representative Darius Kila, Hawaiʻi State House of Representatives
- State Representative Mahina Poepoe, Hawaiʻi State House of Representatives
- Former State representative Stacelynn Eli, Hawaiʻi State House of Representatives
- Former State representative Heather Giugni, Hawai'i State House of Representative
- Former State representative Hermina Morita, Hawai'i State House of Representative
- Vice Speaker Senator Tina Muña Barnes, Guam Legislature
- Former speaker Judi Won Pat, Guam Legislature
- Senator Celina R. Babauta, CNMI
- Representative Edwin K. Propst, CNMI
- Representative Manny Castro, CNMI
- Representative Vincent Diego F. Camacho, CNMI
- Representative Vicente C. Castro, CNMI
- Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, CNMI
- Representative Malaeoletalu Melesio Gurr, American Samoa House of Representatives
- FormerrRepresentative Andra Samoa, American Samoa House of Representatives
- Chair Tommy Waters, Honolulu City Council
- Vice-Chair Esther Kiaʻāina, Honolulu City Council
- Former chair Ikaika Anderson, Honolulu City Council
- Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Maui County Council
- Councilmember Shane Sinenci, Maui County Council
- Councilmember Sue Lee Loy, Hawaiʻi County Council
- Commissioner and Trustee Manufou Anoaʻi, San Mateo County and JESD School Board (California) Councilmember Jacob Fitisemanu, West Valley City Council (Utah)
- Chair Hulu Lindsey, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Trustee Dan Ahuna, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Trustee Brickwood Galuteria, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Trustee Keoni Souza, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Former Trustee Peter Apo, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Former Trustee Brendon Kaleiʻāina Lee, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Lawrence Jay M. Alcairo, Democratic Party of Guam
- Robert J.L Barcinas, Young Democrats of Guam
- Taling M Taitano, Democratic Party of Guam
- Peter John Cruz, Democratic Party of Guam Central Executive Committee
- Chair Jonathan P. Cabrera, CNMI Democratic Party
- Vice Chair Luella I. Marciano, CNMI Democratic Party
- Leila F. Staffler, CNMI Democratic Party
- Angelo Villagomez, CNMI Democratic Party
- Shawna E. Indalecio, CNMI Democratic Party
- Joan Flores-Reyes, CNMI Democratic Party
- Michael A. White, CNMI Democratic Party
- Christina E. Sablan, CNMI Democratic Party
- Nola Hix, executive director of the CNMI Democratic Party
- Stephen Woodruff, deputy director of the CNMI Democratic Party
- Patrick Reid, Democratic Party of American Samoa
- Nathanial Savali, Democratic Party of American Samoa
- Sefa Aina, Former vice chair, President Obama's Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
- Nāʻalehu Anthony, Hawaiian community leader
- Dreana Kalili, Hawaiian community leader
- Manumalo Alaʻilima, founder of Pasifika Impact
- Robin Nama'aea, CEO and managing partner of SKY
- Willie Salaveʻa, owner and Designer of Style Pasifika
- Roy L. Gamboa, president, .dGot Your Six Seven One

About NHPI for Harris-Walz

Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders for Harris-Walz is a coalition of community leaders and advocates committed to supporting the election of Vice President Kamala Harris and Governor Tim Walz. Our mission is to amplify the voices of NHPI communities and ensure their needs are addressed at the highest levels of government.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @NHPIForHarris. ***(PR)***

Marianas Festival to celebrate Pacific Northwest's Chamorro, Refaluwasch communities

The Marianas Alliance for Growth of Islanders proudly announces the inaugural Marianas Festival, the first-ever event of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, set to take place on Aug. 23-24, 2024.

The festival aims to bring together the diaspora Chamoru/Chamorro of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands Chamoru/Chamorro and Refaluwasch/Carolinian communities in the Pacific Northwest.

The theme for this year's festival, "Divided by the Land, Connected by the Ocean / Man Apattáo gi Tano', lao Man Chetton gi Tasi," reflects the event's focus on unity and cultural pride. The festival will be a unique opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to connect, celebrate their heritage, and

Engage in hands-on workshops and traditional activities, including:

- Weaving
- Traditional Chamorro carving
- Lighatúttúr
- Mwaar
- Sling throwing acho' atupat
- Traditional Chamorro dance, song, and chant
- CHamoru sign kanguage
- Pottery making
- Historical exhibits
- Exploration of Latte stones presentation

Day 2 Festival (free entry; $5 parking fee) — August 24, 2024:

Blue Lake Park, Fairview, OR, 10am-7pm

Enjoy a day filled with live performances, cultural displays, and community resources, featuring:

- Chamorro Dancing Performances by Guma Imahe', Guma Kutturan Marianas, Guma Bailadora, and Guma Imahen Taotao Tåno
- Live Music by Pacific Cool, Par 3, PNW Island Jammerz, Tonya Jae, Chad Rivera, Island Reminyse Band, Tokah, Imani & RaKhan
- Marianas Auto Show
- Over 50 vendors offering traditional crafts, foods, and more
- Partnerships with various organizations to provide free resources, including health services, financial literacy, and more

The Marianas Festival is committed to celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Marianas Islands while promoting unity, inclusion, and belonging. The event also emphasizes the importance of community well-being, offering resources for health, self-sufficiency, and economic strength. We invite local businesses and community members to join us in this celebration.

"The Marianas Festival is more than just an event; it's an opportunity to celebrate and recognize our community in the PNW. It's a celebration of our rich cultural heritage and a unifying moment that showcases our traditions, connects our people, and ensures that our legacy continues for future generations. We warmly invite everyone to be part of this shared experience of pride, unity, and the Hafa Adai spirit, " said Bertina Balajadia Grajo, president of MAGI

For more information and to get involved, visit www.marianasfestival.com or contact us at info@marianastestival.com.

About MAGI

The Marianas Alliance for Growth of Islanders is a 501©(3) non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving the cultural heritage of the Chamoru/Chamorro and Refaluwasch/Carolinian communities in the Pacific Northwest. MAGI promotes unity, empowerment, education, and community involvement through various cultural events, performances, and programs. ***(PR)***

Business

Halo Houseware opens in Gualo Rai

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

There's a new house and office furniture store on Saipan following the opening of Halo Houseware in Gualo Rai last month.

Manager Jesse Pan said Halo Houseware is still in the "trial operation stage and figuring out phase." He said their owners decided to put up the business on Saipan because they see a market for home and office furnishings on island.

"Saipan residents really want to focus on enjoying life and home products can significantly enhance their quality of life. We believe there is substantial market potential in this area."

Pan said currently Halo Houseware sells office desks and chairs, lounge chairs, beds, wardrobes, lamps, kitchenware, artificial plants, storage racks, speaker, cups, outdoor gear, camping tents, folding beach chair, decorative items, and small gifts. They import their products from China, but will soon source their products from other markets.

Asked why their owners opened a business in the CNMI during trying economic times, Pan said they're confident in Halo Houseware's business model and its ability to succeed despite the uncertainty of the island's future.

"In times of economic uncertainty, our goal is to get more local residents to buy their favorite products at lower prices. We don't want them to be hesitant to buy their favorite items because they are expensive. For us, lower profit margins are acceptable while keeping our operations on track—small profits but quick returns. It's all worth it as long as our customers are satisfied and happy!"

In fact, he said Halo Houseware offering their items at lower market prices has sort of become their signature since opening in July.

"What makes us different from other houseware stores is our items are cheaper, but the quality is the same. Our aim is to keep the price low with the same quality so that more people can go for this product."

As for the store's name, Pan said Halo Houseware just had a nice ring to it and very appropriate since they want to provide a "light" to Saipan's needs.

Halo Houseware, located beside Megabyte Saipan along Middle Road in Gualo Rai, is open from Monday to Saturday, 9:30am-7pm, and Sunday, 1pm-7pm. For more information, call (670) 989-5115 or go to their Facebook page.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Halo Houseware is located beside Megabyte Saipan along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Halo Houseware sells office desks and chairs, lounge chairs, beds, wardrobes, lamps, kitchenware, artificial plants, storage racks, speaker, cups, outdoor gear, camping tents, folding beach chair, decorative items, and small gifts.

Marianas Business Network to host mixer with CEDA

The Marianas Business Network is excited to announce its upcoming mixer event on Aug. 28, from 6pm to 8pm at the new Tom Yum Restaurant event space on Beach Road across from the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

This free event will feature the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority as special guest speakers for the first hour. CEDA representatives will provide valuable insights into the small business loan programs that are available to local entrepreneurs and business owners. Following the presentation, there will be a networking session, offering a unique opportunity for business owners, aspiring entrepreneurs, and freelancers to connect and collaborate.

Phommachanh-Daigo

The Marianas Business Network is a consortium of small businesses in Saipan dedicated to fostering networking, mutual support, and referral services. As an informal group, it operates without membership fees, ensuring accessibility to all interested parties.

"We welcome anyone interested in starting a small business or looking to expand their network within the local business community," said PK Phommachanh-Daigo, a representative of the Marianas Business Network. "Freelancers are also encouraged to join us and take advantage of the networking opportunities this event offers."

Free registration at Eventbrite registration: https://bit.ly/4drn6ZR

For more information, contact PK Phommachanh-Daigo at (670) 286-3010 or Aileen Arnold at (670) 989-2390 or email at marianasbusinessnetwork@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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Harris offers proposals to cut food and housing costs, trying to blunt Trump's economic attacks

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris announced a sweeping set of economic proposals on Friday meant to cut taxes and lower the cost of groceries, housing and other essentials for many Americans.

"Look, the bills add up," she declared, trying to address the financial concerns that are at the top of voters' minds and that Republican Donald Trump is attempting to blame on her.

During a speech in the battleground state of North Carolina, Harris said that "building up the middle class will be a defining goal of my presidency" as she promoted her plan for a federal ban on price gouging by food producers and grocers. She also proposed $25,000 in down payment assistance for certain first-time homebuyers and tax incentives for builders of starter homes.

"Every day across our nation, families talk about their plans for the future, their ambitions, their aspirations for themselves, for their children. And they talk about how they're going to be able to actually achieve them financially, because, look, the bills add up," Harris said. "Food, rent, gas, back to school clothes, prescription medications. After all that, for many families, there's not much left at the end of the month."

She stressed tax breaks for families, as well as middle- and lower-income people, promising to expand the child tax credit to up to $3,600—and $6,000 for children in their first year of life. The vice president also wants to enlarge the earned income tax credit to cover people in lower-income jobs without children—which the campaign estimates would cut their effective tax rate by $1,500—and lower health insurance premiums through the Affordable Care Act.

Life & Style

Matthew Perry's death leads to sweeping indictment of 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nearly 10 months after the death of Matthew Perry, the long-simmering investigation into the ketamine that killed him came dramatically into public view with the announcement that five people had been charged with having roles in the overdose of the beloved "Friends" star.

Here are key things to know about the case, including the two key figures who could be headed for trial and the possibility of the steepest of prison sentences.

A sweeping set of indictments

One or more arrests had been expected since investigators from three different agencies revealed in May they had been conducting a joint probe into how the 54-year-old Perry got such large amounts of ketamine.

The actor had been among the growing number of patients using legal but off-label medical means to treat depression, or in other cases chronic pain, with the powerful surgical anesthetic.

Recent reports suggested indictments might be imminent, but few outside observers, if any, knew how wide-ranging the prosecution would be, reaching much further than previous cases stemming from celebrity overdoses.

When Michael Jackson died in 2009 from a lethal dose of the anesthetic propofol, his doctor was charged with providing it. After rapper Mac Miller died in 2017, two men who prosecutors described as a dealer and a middleman were convicted of providing fentanyl-laced oxycodone that helped kill him.

But Perry's case pulled in both, with indictments against doctors and illegal distributors who prosecutors say preyed on his long and public struggles with addiction. The investigation even went after the live-in personal assistant who prosecutors say helped him get ketamine and injected it directly into him before Perry was found dead in his hot tub on Oct. 28, 2023.

Perry

"They knew what they were doing was risking great danger to Mr. Perry. But they did it anyway," U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada said in announcing the charges.

The prosecution was well under way even before the announcement. Two people including the assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, and a Perry acquaintance, Eric Fleming, have pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute the drug. A San Diego physician, Dr. Mark Chavez, has agreed to enter a guilty plea.

That leaves prosecutors free to pursue their two biggest targets.

The doctor and the 'Ketamine Queen'

An indictment unsealed Thursday alleges Perry turned to Los Angeles doctor Salvador Plasencia when his regular doctors refused to give him more ketamine. Prosecutors allege Plasencia cashed in on Perry's desperation and addiction, getting him to pay $55,000 in cash for large amounts of the drug in the two months before his death.

"I wonder how much this moron will pay," Plasencia texted a co-defendant, according to his indictment.

He pleaded not guilty to seven counts of distribution of ketamine in an appearance in federal court on Thursday afternoon.

Plasencia's attorney, Stefan Sacks, said outside court that he "was operating with what he what he thought were the best of medical intentions," and his actions "certainly didn't rise to the level of criminal misconduct."

Prosecutors allege Jasveen Sangha, whom they describe as a drug dealer known to customers as the "Ketamine Queen," provided the doses of the drug that actually killed Perry, injected into the actor by Iwamasa with syringes supplied by Plasencia.

Sangha also pleaded not guilty. Her attorney Alexandra Kazarian derided the "queen" moniker as made-for-media consumption during the hearing. The lawyer declined comment on the case outside court.

Prosecutors say the other doctor in the case, Chavez, helped Plasencia obtain the ketamine he gave to Perry, while Perry's acquaintance, Fleming, helped get ketamine from Sangha to Perry.

Chavez could get up to 10 years in prison, Iwamasa up to 15 years and Fleming up to 25 years.

Multiple messages seeking comment from attorneys for the three men were not returned.

Taylor Swift's Eras tour returns in London, with assist from Ed Sheeran, after foiled terror plot

LONDON (AP)—Taylor Swift's history-making Eras Tour made a triumphant return, accompanied by Ed Sheeran, in London Thursday night.

He joined the headliner on stage at Wembley Stadium for the acoustic section, playing on two of their collaborations, "Everything Has Changed" and "Endgame," before a burst of Sheeran's hit "Thinking Out Loud."

Swift teased the audience before his appearance, which lead to loud screaming from an audience that had already been energetically singing, dancing and doing heart hands throughout the show.

Sheeran's appearance was one of the highlights of the finely-honed stage spectacular and musical celebration of Swift's career to date.

It's been tough few weeks for the singer and tour.

Heartbreak remains after the death of three young fans in Southport, northern England, who were killed by an attacker at their Swift themed dance class.

And fear followed the foiled plan to attack her concert venue in Austria, where police arrested three Islamic State-inspired extremists.

The August shows in Vienna were canceled, making Thursday's Wembley concert the return of the Eras Tour to the stage. Neither were addressed on stage by Swift, who kicked things off with an "Oh hi London," and admitted her "mind went blank" when she first greeted the crowd, which she likened to a "love system overload."

She thanked the 92,000-strong audience for making the effort to attend, which had involved increased security measures.

Swift has four remaining dates at Wembley Stadium, which will make it a record breaking solo residency at the venue and round out the European leg of The Eras Tour.

It picks up again in Toronto in November.

The enthusiasm of Swift's fans and a set list that includes more than 40 songs from all phases of her career have helped make the Eras Tour the biggest revenue earner of all time.

According to Pollstar, which collects data on the live music industry, it took more than $1 billion in ticket sales last year.

The tour is expected to push that record to more than $2 billion before it ends later this year in Indianapolis.

Indiana Jones' iconic felt fedora fetches $630,000 at auction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The brown felt fedora worn by actor Harrison Ford in the second installment of the Indiana Jones movies sold for $630,000 at auction, film and TV memorabilia company Propstore announced Friday.

The hat featured in 1984's "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" had been expected to fetch between $250,000 and $500,000, according to the item's online description.

The fedora comes from the personal collection of the late stunt performer Dean Ferrandini, who also wore it while standing in for Ford as Jones, the dashing archaeologist who really hates snakes.

Keeping the fedora in place during filming was an "ongoing challenge," Propstore's expert said in the online description, and foam pieces were inserted to make it fit more snugly.

Created by the Herbert Johnson Hat Company in London, it is made of sable-colored rabbit felt.

Other items sold include an Imperial scout trooper's white "biker scout" helmet from 1983's "Return of the Jedi," which went for $315,000, and a ghost costume worn by stars in the 1996 movie "Scream," which sold for $270,900,

"Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" also featured Kate Capshaw as nightclub singer Willie Scott and Ke Huy Quan as Short Round.

Husband refuses to add wife to home's mortgage

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for nine years (married for seven). I moved into his house with him, and I'm still not on the mortgage. I work full time in the medical field and contribute to all the bills. We did meet with an attorney, and if, God forbid, something happens to him, we have a quitclaim deed, and I wouldn't have to leave. However, he has said to me several times, "If you do this or that, you can't live here anymore."

I'm on eggshells a lot. My concern is that he could tell me to leave at any time, and I wouldn't have a say in it. I love him with all my heart, but he makes me feel like I'm disposable. It makes me sad and uneasy. What do you think?

TENTATIVE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR TENTATIVE: Your husband should not be threatening you. You live in a state in which assets are decided by a judge "on an equitable basis." For your peace of mind, schedule an appointment with an attorney and discuss where you would be financially if your marriage should not work out. Then plan accordingly.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend has an aging father who will not bathe more than twice a month. Even then, it's usually just one five-minute shower about every three weeks. Her dad changes clothes at about the same frequency. My friend has tried everything—asking nicely, nagging, pleading, etc. He continues to ignore her. What, if anything, can my friend do?

LOYAL SUPPORTER IN IOWA

DEAR SUPPORTER: Sometimes as people age their olfactory sense diminishes. Was your friend's aging father always this way, or is this relatively new behavior? If it's new and he has a doctor, he may need to be neurologically evaluated. If more is going on, and he can no longer take care of himself (i.e., do laundry, clean his home, etc.), someone should do it for him on a regular basis. If he refuses to allow that, suggest she visit with him in well-ventilated surroundings.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My longtime neighbor has stopped speaking to me. I've reached out to her, but she doesn't respond. We raised our children together. Her son is getting married out of state, and my son will be in the wedding party. The groom has sent us a "save the date" card. I would love to see him be married, but I don't want to spoil the day for his mother. Have you any advice about how to proceed?

WONDERING IN COLORADO

DEAR WONDERING: I wish you had given me a clue about why your longtime neighbor no longer speaks to you. This is not HER wedding. Her son would not have sent a "save the date" card if he didn't want you to be part of this special day. If you would be comfortable attending under these circumstances, then go. But don't expect that the breach will be healed. If not, send your regrets and a small gift to the happy couple.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

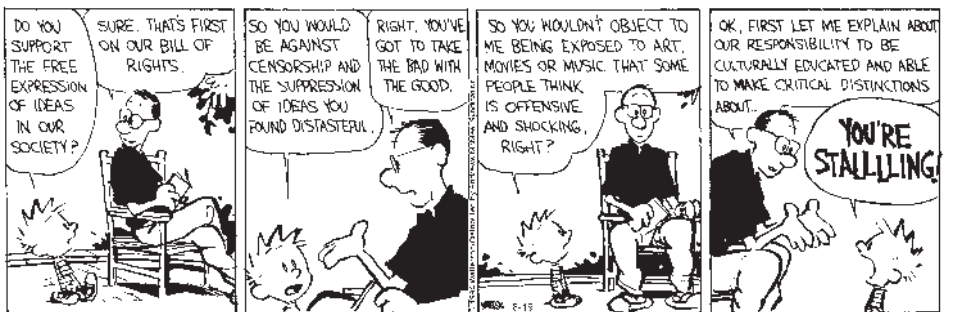
DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

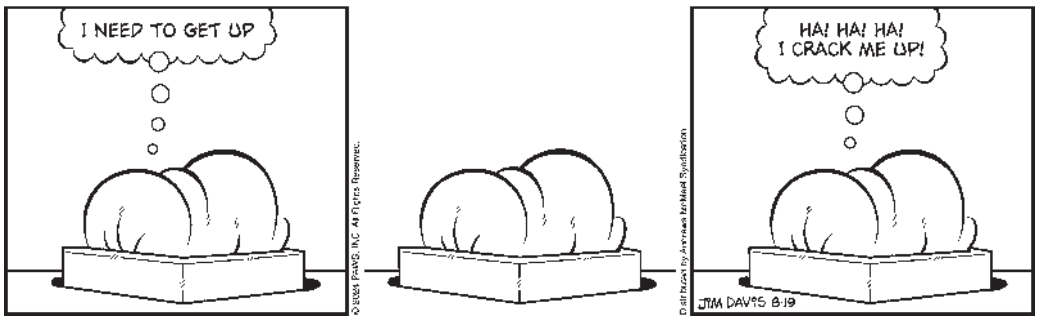
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DO YOU SUPPORT THE FREE EXPRESSION OF IDEAS IN OUR SOCIETY?
SURE. THAT'S FIRST ON OUR BILL OF RIGHTS.
SO YOU WOULD BE AGAINST CENSORSHIP AND THE SUPPRESSION OF IDEAS YOU FOUND DISTASTEFUL.
RIGHT. YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE THE BAD WITH THE GOOD.
SO YOU WOULDN'T OBJECT TO ME BEING EXPOSED TO ART, MOVIES OR MUSIC THAT SOME PEOPLE THINK IS OFFENSIVE AND SHOCKING, RIGHT?
OK, FIRST LET ME EXPLAIN ABOUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE CULTURALLY EDUCATED AND ABLE TO MAKE CRITICAL DISTINCTIONS ABOUT...
YOU'RE STALLLING!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BUSINESS STUFF FOR MY NEW COFFEE COMPANY.
I'VE BEEN A WRITER FOR SO LONG, THIS "REAL" BUSINESS STUFF IS FOREIGN TO ME.
WELL, YOU HAD TO KEEP TRACK OF PAYMENTS AND STUFF WITH YOUR WRITING, RIGHT?
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
WROTE THE AMOUNTS ON POST-IT NOTES AND TOOK MY ACCOUNTANT A SANDWICH BAG FULL OF THEM. "THE ADAM SYSTEM."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS ARTICLE SAYS SQUIRRELS LOSE 25 PERCENT OF THEIR BURIED FOOD TO THIEVES.
IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE THOSE LITTLE SNEAKS ARE RUNNING A HUGE INSURANCE FRAUD SCHEME.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Blue bird
4 Clutch
9 Recipe abbr.
12 Have debts
13 Emanations
14 "Evil Woman" band
15 Teacher on a court
17 Snooze
18 Toronto's prov.
19 Deep-seated resentment
21 Beat cop's job
24 Green land
25 Vein yield
26 Fresh
28 Plain — (easy to see)
31 Bit of progress
33 Aachen article
35 French cleric
36 Less loony
38 Year-end abbr.
40 Swiss peak
41 Part of Q.E.D.
43 Distress signals
45 Herbal tea
47 Edge
48 Six-pack muscles
49 Stubborn
54 No-win outcome?
55 Tenny-son's "— Arden"
56 Hot temper
57 Compass dir.
58 "Divine Comedy" author
59 "30 Rock" role

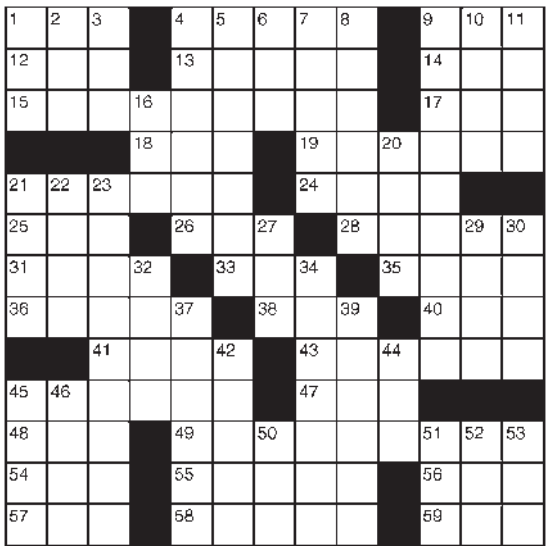
DOWN

1 Scribble (down)
2 Shock partner
3 Kyoto currency
4 Get closer to
5 Moved gently, as leaves
6 Dadaist Jean
7 Beetle Bailey's boss
8 Illinois city
9 Worked at a pub
10 Dross
11 Vatican leader
16 Neither mate
20 — Minor
21 Seed holders
22 Location
23 The Volunteer State
27 Marry
29 Competent
30 Slangy OKs
32 Prefix with byte
34 Bend, as light
37 Sounded off
39 Trite saying
42 "Lovergirl" singer Marie
44 Arles buddy
45 Makes lace
46 Nile wader
50 Dijon denial
51 Corn product
52 Swiss canton
53 "— who?"

Solution time: 21 mins.

T	I	O		Γ	L	A		G	R	A	G	S
A	D	V		L	A	S		E	A	S	E	L
L	E	A		E	X	T	R	E	M	I	T	Y
E	A	T		D	E	R	E	K				
S	L	E	D		S	A	N		S	L	I	M
			E	S	T		E	X	T	E	N	D
M	O	O	G	S				O	I	N	K	S
E	X	T	A	N	T		A	O	L			
T	O	T	S		H	A	R		L	A	M	A
			P	U	N	C	H		C	A	T	
C	X	T	R	A	D	I	T	C		T	U	B
R	E	B	E	L		I	I	N		O	H	A
A	S	S	A	M		A	C	S		N	A	T

Last Friday's answer 8-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Manny Jacinto, 37; Christina Perri, 38; John Stamos, 61; Bill Clinton, 78.

Happy Birthday: Consistency matters. Formulate a plan and stick to it. How you structure your life and strive for equality will determine how others perceive and support your efforts. Think big, but take on only what's possible. Delegate your time and energy to overall success instead of falling short in all areas of life but one. Spread your wealth of knowledge, and conquer your dreams. Your numbers are 7, 15, 24, 27, 32, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* When dealing with colleagues, you must read between the lines. Some people will reveal what they think or want, but others won't. Ask questions, be supportive and help, and you'll make connections that provide benefits when you need assistance. Keep spending to a minimum. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An emotional response will require backup from an expert. Make sure you have your facts straight before you pass them along. An unnecessary change will waste both time and money. Focus on saving and using discipline to protect yourself from situations full of temptation. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Choose what you want to achieve before you agree to take on projects that help others more than they do you. Learn from experience that being generous with your time and skills is only sometimes the best way forward. Have faith in your ability to lead. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Explore options and let your creative imagination run wild, but don't prematurely share your thoughts or intentions. Make sure you have the budget to fulfill your plans before you begin. Hidden expenses and unexpected interferences are apparent if your privacy is not protected. Discipline and commitment are necessary. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Rely on your instincts to lead you in the right direction. Apply yourself, and don't be afraid to be unique and to do things differently if it helps you achieve your goal. Aim to stabilize meaningful relationships using kindness and consideration. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Simplify your life, ease stress and don't let anyone talk you into something that causes anxiety. Pay attention to your health and emotional well-being, and spend time with people you find uplifting and motivating. Pay attention to detail. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Socialize, travel and make new acquaintances. Reaching out will help you accumulate information that can help you avoid poor decisions. Knowledge will encourage realistic expectations and the ability to dismiss anyone trying to lead you astray. Being enthusiastic will help you achieve your goals. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Concentrate on using your imagination and creativity to distance yourself from controversy and emotional situations you have no jurisdiction over. Give yourself the chance to chill and discover what makes you happy. Take better care of your physical and financial well-being. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Share your thoughts and make a difference. Don't limit what you do because someone is holding you back or being too demanding. Make your priorities known to anyone who gets in your way. Address relationship issues, and put an end to letting others treat you poorly. Equality matters. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a serious look at money matters, joint ventures and situations that are causing stress. It's time to adjust your schedule to improve your emotional and physical well-being. Don't hold back when change is necessary. Put yourself first, and don't pay for something you don't want or need. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Avoid making changes while angry, emotional or distraught. Take a moment to think, talk to someone who grounds you or allow situations to play out naturally before you move. Get involved in something you enjoy doing or gravitate toward people who bring out the best in you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be observant. Focus on making your life better, and let others fend for themselves. Your strength comes from doing what's best for you before you make things better for those in your inner circle. Trust your instincts. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, entertaining and open-minded. You are persistent and flexible.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							1	3
1					8	6	9	
	4	3					5	
	6			3		1		7
	3	5	1	8	7		2	
			9		6	3	8	
6	7		2		9	5		8
3	9			5	4		6	
		2			3	4		9

Difficulty: ★ 8/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

7	4	9	1	2	6	8	5	3
5	8	1	9	7	3	6	2	4
6	3	2	4	8	5	9	7	1
9	1	3	8	5	7	2	4	6
8	2	7	6	4	9	3	1	5
4	6	5	3	1	2	7	9	8
2	5	8	7	3	1	4	6	9
1	9	4	2	6	8	5	3	7
3	7	6	5	9	4	1	8	2

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Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/16

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE ISLE OF SKYE Solution: 13 letters

E	L	A	D	A	M	R	A	K	B	E	A	U	T	Y
N	E	L	G	Y	R	I	A	F	E	R	R	Y	R	K
I	S	R	E	D	D	E	E	R	O	Y	L	D	O	S
N	U	E	T	D	P	B	O	A	T	P	D	M	U	I
N	O	K	A	R	O	B	R	A	H	N	I	N	T	H
E	H	S	L	U	O	O	E	K	I	H	S	E	I	W
R	K	I	A	M	F	P	I	S	S	E	S	I	R	W
H	C	L	E	S	L	L	D	I	T	S	S	S	G	N
E	A	A	S	E	T	N	N	M	E	T	L	T	N	A
B	L	T	G	R	A	R	N	N	L	I	E	P	I	G
R	B	E	O	L	E	E	R	E	A	U	A	O	A	E
I	N	C	T	T	G	E	O	R	D	R	T	I	R	V
D	K	O	A	D	V	O	T	T	E	R	R	N	I	N
E	C	W	O	N	Y	R	E	H	C	R	A	T	U	U
S	L	L	I	H	N	I	L	L	I	U	C	G	Q	D

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Archery, Armadale, Beauty, Blackhouse, Boat, Cuillin Hills, Drums, Duntulm, Dunvegan, Fairy Glen, Ferry, Garden, Harbor, Hike, Inner Hebrides, Inverness, Kilt Rock, Legend, Lodge, Neist Point, Otter, Peak, Pier, Portree, Quiraing, Red Deer, Scotland, Seal, Sleat, Sunset, Talisker, Trail, Trout, Waternish, Whisky, Windy

Last Friday's answer : Website

The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Mets shut out Marlins behind complete game from Severino

NEW YORK (AP)—Luis Severino pitched a four-hitter for his second career shutout, and the New York Mets got home runs from Francisco Lindor and Pete Alonso in a 4-0 victory Saturday over the Miami Marlins.

After losing his previous three starts, Severino (8-6) was in complete control against the last-place Marlins on a rainy afternoon at Citi Field. He struck out eight and walked one in the first shutout by a Mets starter since Jacob deGrom blanked Washington in April 2021.

Severino's only other complete game in the majors was a five-hit shutout for the New York Yankees at Houston in May 2018.

The right-hander plunked Jake Burger with his first pitch of the ninth inning, bringing a visit from manager Carlos Mendoza. But after a discussion on the mound, Mendoza left Severino in the game to loud cheers from the crowd of 34,744.

He retired the next three batters and finished with a flourish, screaming and pumping his fist after striking out Derek Hill to end it with his 113th pitch—most by a member of the Mets this season.

New York won consecutive games for just the second time this month. The Mets began the day a game behind Atlanta for the final National League wild card.

AP

New York Mets' Luis Severino pitches during the first inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, in New York.

PIRATES 7, MARINERS 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Isiah Kiner-Falefa had three hits, including a first-inning homer, and Pittsburgh beat skidding Seattle.

Rowdy Tellez and Jared Triolo also connected for the Pirates, who have won the first two games of the three-game series following a 10-game losing streak. Joey Bart added a pair of doubles.

Pittsburgh left-hander Bailey Falter (6-7) matched a career high with eight strikeouts while allowing two runs in 5 2/3 innings. He permitted eight hits and walked none.

It was the fifth consecutive loss for Seattle, which began the day in second place in the AL West.

TIGERS 4, YANKEES 0

DETROIT (AP)—Spencer Torkelson doubled and tripled in his return to the majors, and Detroit beat New York.

Torkelson, who turns 25 on Aug. 26, was batting .201 with four homers when he was demoted to Triple-A on June 2. The No. 1 overall pick in the 2020 amateur draft was called up this weekend, along with Jace Jung and Trey Sweeney—two of Detroit's top infield prospects.

Tigers right-hander Keider Montero (4-5) struck out five in five-plus innings in his 10th career start. He allowed two hits in his third consecutive win.

Tyler Holton followed Montero with three innings. Jason Foley finished the four-hitter, working around Aaron Judge's leadoff double in the ninth.

Yankees starter Carlos Rodan (13-8) surrendered four runs and seven hits in 3 1/3 innings.

CUBS 3, BLUE JAYS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Ian Happ homered in the first inning and Michael Busch added a two-run triple as Chicago beat Toronto.

Dansby Swanson added two hits for the Cubs, who won their second straight after losing three consecutive games to the American League Central-leading Cleveland Guardians.

Nate Pearson (2-1), one of seven pitchers for the Cubs, allowed a hit in two scoreless innings and earned the victory. Jorge Lopez allowed a homer in the ninth before striking out George Springer, Daulton Varsho and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. for his third save in three opportunities.

Addison Barger hit his third home run of the season and Varsho added a pair of hits and an RBI for the Blue Jays, who had won five of their last eight games.

RAYS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Jeffrey Springs got his first win in 16 months, Brandon Lowe hit a two-run homer, and Tampa Bay beat Arizona.

Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash became the sixth active manager with 800 wins as the Rays returned to .500 at 61-61.

Springs (1-1) allowed one run and four hits while striking out seven over five innings in his fourth start since Tommy John surgery on April 24, 2023.

The Diamondbacks have lost two in a row for just the second time since the All-Star break. They have overcome injuries to go 20-7 over that stretch and hold a National League wild card spot at 69-55.

Arizona star Ketel Marte was the designated hitter after missing three games with a sprained left ankle and went 1 for 3 with a walk.

PHILLIES 5, NATIONALS 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Cristopher Sanchez pitched his second complete game of the season, and Philadelphia defeated Washington.

Sanchez faced two batters over the minimum, allowing two hits. The only blemish in his outing was a solo homer by Alex Call to lead off the fourth inning. Call hit a 1-1 slider into the front row seats in right-centre field.

Sanchez (9-8) struck out four and did not issue a walk as he picked up his ninth win of the season after losing four of his previous five decisions.

Sanchez was incredibly efficient, throwing just 99 pitches to complete the game. His previous complete game was a shutout against Miami on June 28.

ROYALS 13, REDS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Dairon Blanco homered twice—including his first career grand slam—and drove in seven runs as Kansas City routed Cincinnati.

The offensive fireworks by the Royals overshadowed a fine start by Michael Wacha (10-6), who allowed just four hits and struck out nine through six shutout innings as Kansas City beat the Reds for the second straight night.

Blanco, who wielded a bat painted to look like a yellow crayon, hit a two-run homer deep to centre field on the first pitch he saw from Reds starter Nick Lodolo in the second inning.

Then the 31-year-old Cuban cleared the loaded bases with a shot deep into the left-field seats in the third, and drove in another run with a single in the fourth. He came into the game with just one homer and five RBIs this season.

CARDINALS 5, DODGERS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Masyn Winn, Alec Burleson and Nolan Arenado homered and St. Louis beat Los Angeles to snap a five-game losing streak.

Andre Pallante (5-6) allowed two runs on four hits in seven innings. JoJo Romero pitched a scoreless eighth inning, and Ryan Helsley had a perfect ninth inning for his major league leading 38th save.

Shohei Ohtani went 2 for 3 with a homer and a two stolen bases for Los Angeles. He broke a out of a 10-game slump where he went 5 for 44 (.144) without a multi-hit game.

Bobby Miller (1-3) allowed four runs on eight hits and four wild pitches in 4 2/3 innings after being recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City prior to the game.

TWINS 5, RANGERS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Willi Castro drove in two runs with a bases-loaded single and another Minnesota run scored on the play due to a throwing error as the Twins rallied to beat the slumping Texas Rangers 5-2 on Saturday night.

Trailing 2-1 heading into the eighth, the Twins got singles from Edouard Julien and Christian Vazquez off Nathan Eovaldi (8-7). Austin Martin loaded the bases by beating out a sacrifice bunt that was initially ruled an out before being overturned following a Twins challenge. Castro's single to centre off David Robertson scored Julien and Vazquez. A throw by Texas centre fielder Leody Taveras' throw to third base bounced past Josh Jung, allowing Martin to score, giving the Twins a 4-2 lead.

Trevor Larnach hit his 12th homer of the season and the Twins added a run in the ninth on Kyle Farmer's sacrifice fly that scored Carlos Santana, who drew the game's only walk.

ASTROS 6, WHITE SOX 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Jose Altuve drove in a pair of runs, Yainer Diaz registered his team-leading 68th RBI, Hunter Brown struck out six and Houston defeated Chicago.

Brown registered his ninth-straight quality start as he allowed one run over seven innings. This marks his 11th win of the year, tying a career high, and Brown is 10-2 in his 14 starts since June 1.

Trailing 1-0, the Astros (66-56) broke through with a three-run inning against White Sox starter Chris Flexen in the third. Flexen had set down the first seven batters he faced before rookie Shay Whitcomb doubled to right centre for his first major league hit.

ATHLETICS 2, GIANTS 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Oakland right-hander Osvaldo Bido retired the first 14 batters in order and carried a no-hit bid into the sixth inning, shutting down San Francisco in the second-to-last game of the Bay Bridge Series.

Bido's bid ended when he gave up Grant McCray's one-out infield single in the sixth on which the ball traveled about two feet at 67.3 mph off the bat. Bido wound up with just that one hit allowed over six innings. He struck out six and walked two.

As the Bay Bridge rivalry entered its final weekend before the A's relocate, the game drew a season-high crowd of 37,551 at the Coliseum.

BREWERS 2, GUARDIANS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Freddy Peralta pitched six effective innings and William Contreras hit a tiebreaking homer that sent Milwaukee past Cleveland for their fourth straight victory.

Gary Sanchez had an early RBI double and Milwaukee maintained its 10-game lead in the NL Central, the largest of any division leader.

Cleveland's advantage in the AL Central was sliced to two games over surging Minnesota, which beat Texas 5-2.

RED SOX 5, ORIOLES 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Brayan Bello took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and Jarren Duran delivered a tiebreaking two-run single in the seventh to carry Boston past Baltimore.

Rafael Devers hit his team-high 27th homer for the Red Sox, who moved within seven games of the first-place New York Yankees in the AL East. Baltimore is one game out despite losing four of six.

Bello limited the Orioles to three walks before facing Gunnar Henderson with two outs in the sixth. Henderson hit the first pitch over the right-field wall for his 32nd home run, erasing Boston's 1-0 lead.

PADRES 8, ROCKIES 3

DENVER (AP)—Manny Machado had four hits to help spark San Diego's offence, Dylan Cease took a one-hitter into the sixth inning and they rebounded from a loss to beat Colorado.

Luis Campusano homered and singled to drive in a pair of runs and Bryce Johnson added two hits and two RBIs for the Padres. Jake Cronenworth also drove in a pair of runs for San Diego, which could win its franchise-record ninth consecutive series since the All-Star break with a victory Sunday.

Michael Toglia homered for the Rockies, driving in two of the team's three runs in the sixth inning with his 20th of the season.

BRAVES 11, ANGELS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Chris Sale struck out 10 in his 14th win and Marcell Ozuna went 3 for 3 with an early three-run homer as Atlanta blew out Los Angeles.

Whit Merrifield and Ramon Laureano also went deep for the Braves, who improved to 5-3 since a six-game losing streak. They remained a game ahead of the New York Mets for the final National League playoff berth.

Sale (14-3) allowed two runs on six hits and two walks over six innings, tying Detroit ace Tarik Skubal for the major league lead in wins. The eight-time All-Star moved to 8-0 in 11 appearances (nine starts) against the Angels with a 1.24 ERA - his lowest versus any team he's faced at least 10 times.

Analysis: Aiyuk, 49ers need each other for a Super Bowl

By ROB MAADDI AP
Pro Football Writer

Matthew Judon wanted a new contract and ended up on a new team with a better chance of winning.

Brandon Aiyuk isn't in a similar situation.

Aiyuk has been holding-in with the San Francisco 49ers, waiting for a lucrative deal or a trade. If the star wide receiver goes somewhere else—the Steelers appear to be the top option—his chances of winning a Super Bowl decrease.

Judon, the four-time Pro Bowl edge rusher, was traded from New England to Atlanta on Wednesday. He went from a rebuilding team expected to finish last in the AFC East to a revamped Falcons squad that can win the NFC South.

The 49ers came close to hoisting the Vince Lombardi trophy last season before losing to the Kansas City Chiefs in overtime. They're favorites to win the NFC, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

So, going anywhere other than Kansas City is a downgrade for Aiyuk and the Chiefs aren't in position to make this type of blockbuster.

Aiyuk isn't the only big-time receiver mired in a contract dispute. All-Pro CeeDee Lamb is holding out from Dallas and Ja'Marr Chase is a hold-in with Cincinnati.

The 49ers have an even more pressing contract stalemate. Three-time All-Pro left tackle Trent Williams is holding out and they need him to protect Brock Purdy's blind side.

Overall, the 49ers are loaded with offensive talent led by All-Pros Christian McCaffrey and George Kittle and do-it-all wideout Deebo Samuel.

Still, Aiyuk is an integral part of a dynamic attack. The 2020 first-round pick has thrived in San Francisco's offense since Purdy became the starting quarterback. He has eight 100-yard receiving games in 26 games catching passes from Purdy. Aiyuk had three 100-yard receiving games in 45 games with other QBs.

First-round pick Ricky Pearsall was drafted to potentially replace Aiyuk, but he hasn't been able to stay healthy in training camp.

While Williams isn't going anywhere, Aiyuk's future in San Francisco is more uncertain. NFL Network reported this week that the 49ers and Steelers have agreed on compensation for a trade. The only thing holding up a deal is the fact general manager John Lynch, coach Kyle Shanahan and everyone else in San Francisco know the 49ers are a better team right now with Aiyuk.

"Brandon is a great player, so it's real hard to be better when you lose a great player," Shanahan said last week. "So we have to look into anything, we have to understand the situation we're in, what that looks like. And that does take time. So hopefully it'll all work out best for him and best for us in the long run."

Aiyuk is slated to earn $14.1 million this season on his fifth-year option. He's watched 10 receivers sign contracts worth at least $70 million this offseason led by Justin Jefferson's four-year, $140 million extension.

A total of 25 receivers have an average annual salary of at least $15 million with 21 making $20 million or more.

Aiyuk was a second-team All-Pro last season when he had 75 catches for 1,342 yards and seven touchdowns. Based on his production, he'd be underpaid this season if he doesn't get a raise.

Judon was willing to play out the final year of his contract with the Patriots but still got traded anyway. Players handle contract issues in different ways. The 49ers may be gambling that Aiyuk is going to eventually show up to avoid losing salary. Former Steelers star running back Le'Veon Bell sat out the entire 2018 season because he didn't want to play on a franchise tag. He went to the Jets in 2019 and was never the same player, lasting just two more seasons.

"You're always disappointed when you can't keep a hold of all your players or it's not going exactly right," Shanahan said about Aiyuk last week. "I don't like losing anybody. That's why I'm hoping it does work out here. But right now, we don't have that solved yet. I hope it does."

The 49ers and Aiyuk need each other.

AP

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk speaks to reporters during opening night festivities for the NFL football Super Bowl 58, in Las Vegas, Monday, Feb. 5, 2024.

Harbaugh says Kaepernick will not be a player or coach with Chargers this season

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—If Colin Kaepernick wants to join the Los Angeles Chargers, it will not be until next year at the earliest.

And it will only be as a member of Jim Harbaugh's coaching staff.

"I love Colin, but he's not going to be on the coaching staff, which is set for this year. And he's not going to be playing on the roster either," Harbaugh said after Thursday's practice.

Harbaugh—who coached Kaepernick in San Francisco from 2011 through '14—told USA Today Sports earlier this week that he reached out to Kaepernick about joining his Chargers' staff shortly after being named coach on Jan. 24.

Harbaugh said on Thursday that it wasn't the first time he has touched base with Kaepernick about coaching, and that he mentioned it a couple times when he was the coach at Michigan.

"I have thought that for a long time. Just the respect that I have for the football mind he has and the football man that he is," said Harbaugh when asked what made him think Kaepernick would make a good coach. "(Late Raiders owner) Al Davis saw something in me that made him think I would be a good coach, and I see those same qualities in Colin. If it is something he chooses."

Kaepernick, who turns 37 on Nov. 3, has not played in an NFL game since Jan. 1, 2017, after he began kneeling on the sideline at games during the national anthem to protest social injustice and police brutality.

Kaepernick—who played six seasons with San Francisco after being a second-round pick in 2011—still has hopes though of playing again. He told Britain's "Sky Sports News" during the recent Paris Olympics that he is still training.

"It's something I've trained my whole life for, so to be able to step back on the field, I think that would be a major moment, a major accomplishment for me," Kaepernick said. "I think I could bring a lot to a team and help them win a championship."

Kaepernick had a 29-16 record as a starter, including the playoffs, when Harbaugh was his coach. After Harbaugh left to go to Michigan, Kaepernick's record was 3-17.

Kaepernick was the starting QB in Super Bowl 47 against Baltimore. He was 16 of 28 for 302 yards with a touchdown and also ran for a score in San Francisco's 34-31 loss.

Harbaugh has three players he coached in San Francisco on his Chargers staff—NaVorro Bowman, Jonathan Goodwin and Will Tukuafu. Mike Iupati and Delanie Walker were coaching assistants during training camp while Dashon Goldson is a coaching intern for the season.

Greg Roman, who was Kaepernick's offensive coordinator in San Francisco from 2011 through '14, is also directing the Chargers' offense.

NBA BRIEFS

Prescott says 'good conversations' are happening with the Cowboys about a new contract

OXNARD, Calif. (AP)—Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott said Thursday he remains hopeful he will be able to work out a contract extension. "Good conversations are going on, I will say that," said Prescott, who's entering the final season of a $160 million, four-year contract. "Call it negotiations, whatever, conversations," he added. "A lot of good things are going on there, so a lot of confidence. Once again, as I've said any time I feel like I've talked about it, I've got confidence in my guys, these guys getting something done." When asked how aware of those proceedings he is, Prescott joked, "depends on how good it (the offer) is." Prescott, 31, has been at ease discussing his own contract situation during training camp. He has repeatedly stressed his desire to remain with the Cowboys, where Prescott has played his entire eight-year career, but understands the business component could result in him being elsewhere next season. Prescott had 4,516 yards passing and 36 touchdowns with nine interceptions last season, the third time he has thrown for at least 4,000 yards and 30 touchdowns in his career. The Cowboys are dealing with two prominent contract situations: Prescott and wide receiver CeeDee Lamb, who is holding out of training camp while seeking a new deal. Prescott and Lamb have combined for 30 touchdowns over the past three seasons.

Wilson to make his preseason debut when the Steelers host the Bills

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Russell Wilson is expected to be in the lineup when the Pittsburgh Steelers host Buffalo on Saturday night. Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said Thursday that Wilson will run out with the starters as long as he doesn't have any setbacks from a calf injury that has slowed him during training camp. "He's had a couple really good days (and) with each passing day (the injury) is less of an issue, and so we look forward to him participating in this home venue," Tomlin said. Pittsburgh signed the nine-time Pro Bowler to a one-year deal in March. Tomlin has said for months that the 35-year-old Wilson is in "pole position" to be the starter when the regular season begins. That hasn't changed even with Wilson ceding plenty of reps to Justin Fields during camp to deal with a balky calf. Tomlin expects the starters to play about four series against Buffalo, though he stressed that the plan wasn't "etched in stone." Fields was efficient while starting Pittsburgh's preseason opener against Houston, completing 5 of 6 passes for 83 yards, though he also had issues in the snap exchange with center Nate Herbig. Fields will get playing time against the Bills, though how much will likely be determined by what happens when Wilson is in the game.

Marianas Tourism Cup Golf Classic on Oct. 12

The 2024 Marianas Tourism Cup Golf Classic will be held on Oct. 12, 2024, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Tournament proceeds will fund the education work of the non-profit organization Marianas Tourism Education Council and school tourism MY WAVE Clubs.

"For over two decades, MTEC has played a vital role in educating and engaging the community—especially our youth—in the Marianas tourism industry," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "We are incredibly grateful to all our sponsors and supporters who help make that possible, and we're looking for a great turnout on Oct. 12 at beautiful LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort!"

Registration will open shortly. Flight categories are Championship (0-5), A Flight (6-10), B Flight (11-16), C Flight (17+), Ladies, Senior (ages 55+). Showtime on tournament day is 6am, with a shotgun start at 7am.

For more information, contact Marianas Tourism Cup Golf Classic Committee chair Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or committee member Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or call (670) 664-3200/1. ***(PR)***

LEIGH GASES

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, standing, makes his remarks during the school year 2024-2025 memorandum of agreement signing ceremony with seven of CNMI's national sports federations, as Public School System Athletics Program director Nick Gross, second right, acting senior director of the PSS Office of Student and Support Services, Brandon Nicholas, second left, and Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, listen last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

PSS

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national sports federations from the NMI Football Association, Northern Marianas Athletics, NMI Basketball Federation, NMI Softball Association, NMI Volleyball Association, Northern Marianas Badminton Association, and the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation.

NMIFA representatives were executive director Ross Zapanta and executive committee member Catherine Attao-Toves; NMISA was represented by president Froilan Camacho and Kyle Hocog; NMIVA was represented by vice president Tyce Mister; NMIBF was represented by president James Lee; NMBA was represented by president Merlie Tolentino; NMNPSF was represented by president Justin Andrew; and NMA was represented by president Ray Tebuteb.

A presentation of each of the programs/federations' statistics and successes from the previous school year 2023-2024 was shown, as each of the federations' representatives went up to sign their respective MOAs with Gross, Camacho, associate commissioner Eric Magofna, and acting senior director of the PSS Office of Student and Support Services, Brandon Nicholas.

Gross, in his welcome remarks, said that the partnerships is what makes the programs possible. "I will never have the capacity to hire the number of people—and the capacity that it takes to officiate and coach—all of these things that the federations do to support the programs. In the end, what they create is sustainability. Prior to this long process of coming together in these formal partnerships, we struggled—whether it was on the PSS side, or on the federations' side," he said.

Gross then said that the signing ceremony came into fruition because every year they try to improve the delivery of sports and try to improve the optics of what they do collectively. "Each one of these federations is incredible in what they're doing, but I think this is an opportunity to really shine on them, which in turn shines on us. And so, it really is one of these mutually beneficial things that we've come a long way in drawing this up."

Camacho, for his part, said that the signing ceremony was "an honorable thing." He thanked Gross and the minimal staff of the Athletics Program—Lia Rangamar, Lawrence Camacho, and Rehlina Keller—for the work they've done.

"I'll reiterate and echo the words of sentiment of Nick for those out there partnering with us. Without you, I don't think we would have been as successful. As much as Nick wants it to be a successful program, we need you, so we thank you for this day," he said.

Tan, who also signed an MOA for NMSA as the CNMI's governing body of sports, said that with all the previous games—2022 Pacific Mini Games, 2023 Pacific Games, and the 2024 Micronesian Games—he noticed that most of the athletes are young.

"I salute all the federations that are smart enough to engage Nick actively, because it's true that in inter-scholastics, you develop grassroots—these are the young kids and they all want to play with the schools. So, it's been a very good partnership that I've witnessed in the last three years," he said.

He added that the partnership between PSS, NMSA, and the national federations is a success. "It's a win, win, win for everybody. I also want to thank our national federations for being active. NMSA is just the governing body that's working with Nick to provide the opportunity for students to compete. And so, we would love to expand to even more sports."

TSUNAMI

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know and without him I don't know what I would be doing because I know my talent is swimming and I'm thankful I was gifted such a great coach. I would also like to thank my girlfriend because she motivated me whenever I would go off-island. She's the best girlfriend I could have asked for and I love her so much," said Aleksenko.

"It it has truly been an honor to be a part of this team for so long. I want to thank them all for all the great experiences and memories we all had together and for helping me achieve this position that I am in now. I am looking forward to swimming in my college and meeting the new swimmers that are there. Also, I am looking forward to making new friends," said Pajallaga.

Aside from Aleksenko and Pajarillaga, three Tsunami Saipan graduates also left the island recently as Michelle Chen, Julia Jinang, and Andrew Nunez left for college in the U.S. mainland, according to Kimura.

"All three have contributed greatly to Tsunami Saipan. Without them, Tsunami Saipan would not be the strong team it is today," he said.

Pajarillaga will major in Chemistry at Macalester College, while Aleksenko will be taking up engineering.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isaiah Aleksenko and Kean Pajarillaga pose with Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center coach Hiroyuki Kimura and his wife Yuko, who is also the club's manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isaiah Aleksenko and his mom Yulia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kean Pajarillaga and his mom Susan.

LEIGH GASES

Falcons' Antonio "Tonchu" Norita swings at a pitch during one of their games in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League. He had the most triples of the season with three.

HARRY

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Masaharu hit two each.

Brian Camacho had the most doubles at six; and Harry, Jerome Delos Santos, J.J. Lifoifoi, J.P. Sablan, and Ton Salas have three each.

And, only five players hit a home run each—Ben Flores, Dennis Cabrera, Eli Aughenbaugh, Jesus Iguel, Tony Tenorio.

On the bump, Palacios Jr. of the Blue Jays led all other pitchers with his sub one earned run average at 0.53. He pitched seven games and 26.2 innings, while he recorded a 3-0 win-loss record and had two earned runs and 14 hits against him.

Second was K.J. Villagomez from the Cardinals who recorded a 1.04 ERA, three ER, and 13 hits in four games and 20.1 innings pitched. He also had a 3-0 record. Third was the Bandits' Jose Lizama Jr. at a 1.16 ERA, six ER, and 30 hits, in nine games and 36.2 innings pitched. He came out with a 6-1 record.

The strikeout king was Lizama Jr. who put the lights out on 46 batters; Aaron Camacho and Palacios Jr. had 36 victims each; Jason Reyes sat down 31; Jeffrey Lizama, Keahi Omupas, and Villagomez said goodbye to 27 each; Jylon Sablan rejected 26; and R.J. Riungel struck out 20.

In the final regular season standings, the Falcons clinched the pennant with their 9-1 record; Bandits and Padres are tied at 8-2; the Cardinals are at 7-3; Sandlot, Braves, and Blue Jays are 6-4 each; and Royals are at an even 5-5; Bears are 4-6; D-9er's are 3-7; White Sox are 2-8; Natives are 1-9; while Blue Shark lost all their games at 10 losses.

CNMI Weightlifting to hold Strength Festival on Oct. 26

CNMI Weightlifting is planning a Strength Festival for Oct. 26, 2024 to be held at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

The event will showcase a Street Weightlifting Competition (open to weightlifters only), bench-press and deadlift activities (open to everyone), a dumbbell deadlift challenge, and the Oceania Talent Identification Program which is open to middle school age children.

There will be raffles and food for sale. CNMI Weightlifting encourages other vendors and federations to take part in this event. Interested parties and those who need more information should email cnmiweightlifting@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

SBL STANDINGS

	W	L		
Falcons	9	1		
Bandits	8	2		
Padres	8	2		
Cardinals	7	3		
Braves	6	4		
Blue Jays	6	4		
Sandlot	6	4		
Royals	5	5		
Bears	4	6		
D-9er's	3	7		
White Sox	2	8		
Natives	1	9		
Blue Shark	0	10		

BATTING LEADERS

Harry Nakamura	.640
Darion Jones	.520
Nokki Saralu	.483
Marvin Ngeskebei	.444
Derek Sasamoto	.444
Tim DLGuerrero	.440
Franco Nakamura	.436
Dennis Cabrera	.414
Ian Norita	.414
Tonchu Norita	.392

Runs scored: (20) Jerald Cabrera, Poland Masaharu (19) Nokki Saralu (18) J-Boy Mendiola.
Doubles: (6) Brian Camacho (3) Harry Nakamura, Jerome DLSantos, J.J Lifoifoi, J.P Sablan, Ton Salas.
Triples: (3) Tonchu Norita (2) Niko Martin, Poland Masaharu.
Homeruns: (1) Ben Flores, Dennis Cabrera, Eli Aughenbaugh, Jesus Iguel, Tony Tenorio.
RB's: (17) Harry Nakamura (11) Nokki Saralu, Patrick Tenorio Jr. (10) Brian Camacho, Frankie. Lieto, Franco Nakamura

PITCHING LEADERS

Benji Palacios Jr.	0.53
K.J Villagomez	1.04
Jose Lizama Jr.	1.16
Mike Iguel	1.45
R.J Riungel	1.65
Jylon Sablan	1.69
Aaron Camacho	2.03
Jason Reyes	2.68
Jose DLGuerrero	2.72
Kevin Kapileo	3.29

Strike-outs: (46) Jose Lizama Jr. (36) Aaron Camacho, Benji Palacios (31) Jason Reyes (27) Jeffrey Lizama, Keahi Omupas, K.J Villagomez (26) Jylon Sablan (20) R.J Riungel.

Mets shut out Marlins behind complete game from Severino
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PSS Athletics inks MOA with nat'l sports feds

LEIGH GASES

A group photo of the seven national sports federations and their representatives, Public School System Athletics Program and their director Nick Gross, seated third left, and the program's staff; Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, seated second from left, and PSS key management; and Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, seated right, after the conclusion of their school year 2024-2025 memorandum of agreement signing ceremony last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Public School System Athletics Program inked a school year 2024-2025 memorandum of agreement with its seven national sports federation partners in a signing ceremony to guide their mutual sporting goals at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room last Friday.

The ceremony was attended by PSS Athletics Program director Nick Gross and Athletics Programs staff; Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and PSS key management; Board of Education acting chair Greg Borja; Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan; and the presidents/representatives of the seven

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Harry, Benji atop final SBL rankings

NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

The Blue Jays team of the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League poses for a group photo at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field. Benjamin "Benji" Palacios Jr., crouching fifth from left, came out of the season as the top pitcher.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Slugger Harry Nakamura and southpaw pitcher Benjamin "Benji" Palacios Jr. came out on top of the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League final individual rankings after their last regular season games last week.

The Bandits' Nakamura had a solid .640 batting average from 16 hits out of 25 plate appearances. Second is the Padres' Darion Jones who had a .520 average from 13 out of 25 at-bats, and third was the Cardinals' Nokki Saralu who racked up a .483 average from 14 out of 29 tries.

Nakamura also led the league with the most RBIs at 17; Saralu and Patrick Tenorio Jr. were tied at 11; and Brian Camacho, Frankie Lieto, and Franko Nakamura shared 10 each.

The most runs scored was a tie between Jerald Cabrera and Poland Masaharu at 20; Saralu collected 19; and J-Boy Mendiola scored 18.

Antonio "Tonchu" Norita led the triples column at three, while Niko Martin and

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Tsunami Saipan fetes Isaiah, Kean

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's members Isaiah Aleksenko and Kean Pajarillaga, center, show off their mementos after being feted during a farewell dinner last Aug. 11 at Kinpachi Restaurant in Garapan.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center held a farewell dinner for college-bound members Isaiah Aleksenko and Kean Pajarillaga last Aug. 11 at Kinpachi Restaurant in Garapan.

Head coach Hiroyuki Kimura said while Aleksenko and Pajarillaga will be going off-island for college, it's not entirely goodbye as the duo will continue their swimming careers at Keiser University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, respectively.

"I don't have any comments for Isaiah and Kean now. Correctly, I don't want to say anything about them because they'll keep swimming competitively in college. It means there may be a reunion in the near future such as the Pacific Mini Games, etc." he told *Saipan Tribune*. There are many great coaches in the U.S. mainland. Isaiah and Kean will get excellent coaching and learn a lot to improve their swim level. I want them to practice hard in college while training and achieve great results in college."

Aleksenko is expected to fly to the U.S. mainland on Aug. 26, while Pajarillaga will be leaving today, Aug. 19.

Aleksenko and Pajarillaga thanked Tsunami Saipan not only for the farewell dinner, but also for shaping them to the swimmers and persons they've turned out to be. They also thanked family and loved ones for their successes.

"I would like to thank all my teammates for all they've done for me and for being a second family. I would also like to thank my family, my friends, and most importantly my mom because without her I wouldn't be able to do this and accomplish my goals. I would also like to thank my coach [Hiro] and Miss Yuko [Kimura]. Coach and Miss Yuko are like a second mom and dad to me and I've known them my whole life, basically. I really love my coach and Miss Yuko. My coach taught me everything I

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